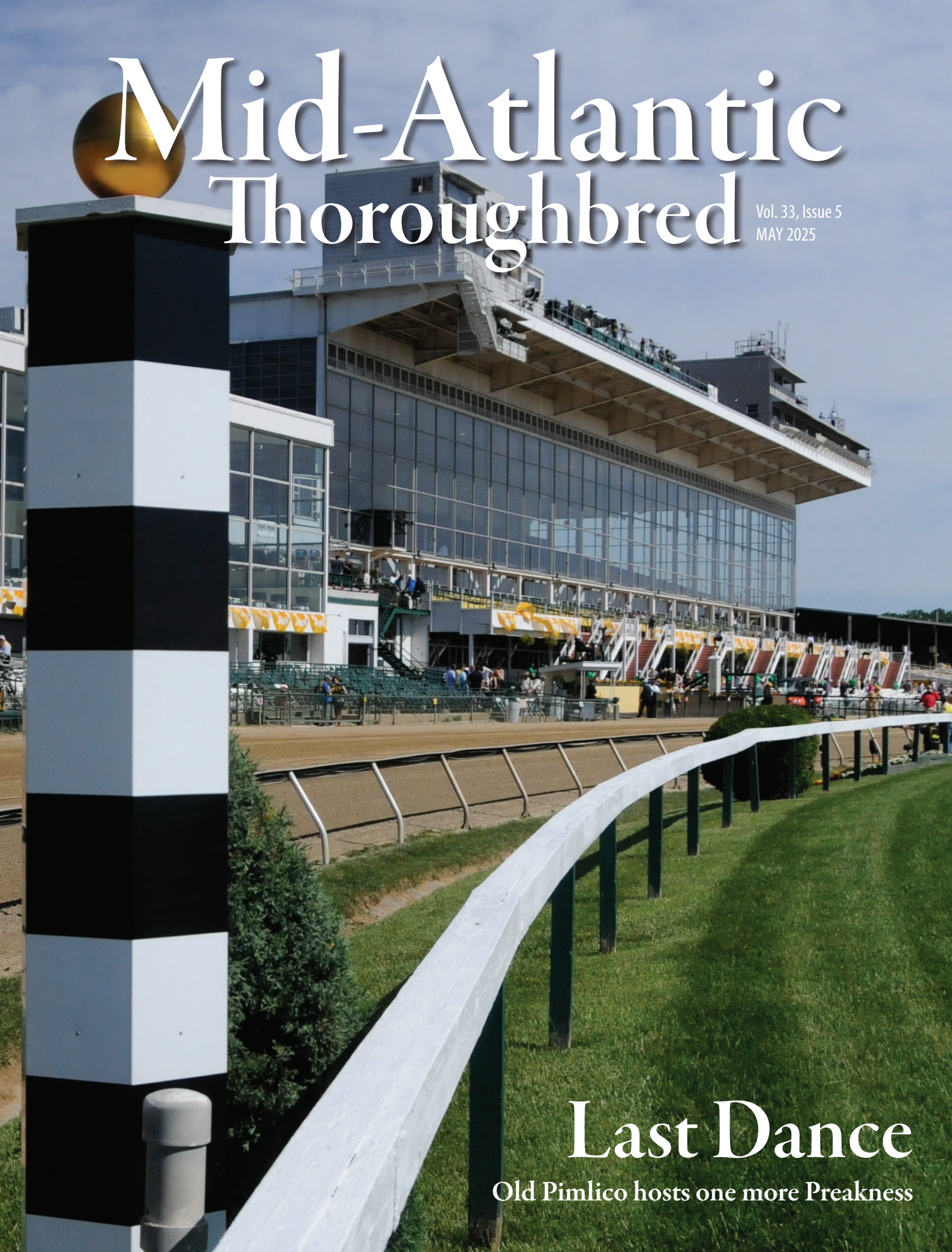
Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 33, Issue 5
MAY 2025



Last Dance

Old Pimlico hosts one more Preakness

COUNTRY LIFE & MERRYLAND
From Beginning to Winning

Oh, what a feeling!
Springtime in Maryland

Jim McCue

Kentucky resident Charles Parker is loving his springtime drive of 600 miles to see his Maryland-bred foals and racehorses. Parker (as Barak Farm) is breeder/owner of winner Safe Trust and co-breeder/co-owner (with Dino's Thoroughbreds LLC) of second-place Shkhara Fire in a $71,505 allowance race at Laurel on April 12. Here's what those Maryland-breds will bring home:

1st – Safe Trust
(by Mosler)
$43,470 purse earned
(incl. the 15% Owner Award)
$9,780.75 Breeder Award
$6,520.50 Developer Award
$9,450 Va-certified Award
$69,221.25 total

2nd – Shkhara Fire
(by Friesan Fire)
$14,490 purse earned
(incl. the 15% Owner Award)
$3,260.25 Breeder Award
$2,173.50 Developer Award
$19,923.75 total

Total earnings & awards: $89,145

More Spring News

Courtesy of Country Life Farm

Parker celebrated the arrival of a half-sister to SW and $245,495-earner Safe Trust, when Annie Trust delivered her 2025 filly at Country Life Farm on April 14.

Coady Photography

Md-bred Passion Rules, by Friesan Fire, shown winning at Oaklawn earlier this year, may be Preakness bound for 2025.

Maryland's Oldest Thoroughbred Farm • Bel Air, Maryland 21014 • countrylifefarm.com
Office 410-879-1952 • Josh Pons 443-807-0644 • Mike Pons 410-459-8517 • Christy Holden 410-808-1325

MIDLANTIC *"Magic"!*

THE ONLY 2YO SALE TO PRODUCE AN **ECLIPSE CHAMPION** IN 2024

STRAIGHT NO CHASER
Breeders' Cup Sprint (G1) &
Eclipse Champion Male Sprinter

SACRED WISH
Matriarch S. (G1)

FULL COUNT FELICIA
E.P. Taylor S. (G1)

Midlantic May

TWO-YEAR-OLDS IN TRAINING

MONDAY & TUESDAY,
MAY 19 - 20

Under Tack Show: May 13 - 15
Timonium, Maryland

Fasig-Tipton
fasigtipton.com

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

Preakness memories fill lifetimes and beyond

Pimlico hosts the 150th – and last as we know it – Preakness as Baltimore's racetrack faces a complete overhaul set to begin after this year's renewal. Historic winners, a steward and two Maryland Jockey Club staffers look back on what it all meant. By Joe and Sean Clancy. Page 26

The legend of Preakness the horse

In 1870, a horse named Preakness upset the inaugural Dinner Party Stakes at a new racetrack in Baltimore. It was an early step in a star-crossed life for a Thoroughbred of great ability and notoriety. By Vinnie Perrone. Page 36

Covering the Preakness

Maryland's big race regularly fills the cover of this magazine and its predecessor the *Maryland Horse*. Take a stroll through a few of history's front pages. Page 44

Trackside: Laurel Park

Owner/breeder Frank Sample finds success with homebred half-siblings Onyx Ten and Secret Zipper. By Paul Halloran. Page 53

Frommer changes locales, scales back

Known for a savvy eye for yearlings and a steady hand with 2-year-olds, Cary Frommer changes course to Virginia after years in South Carolina. By Liane Crossley. Page 56

Trackside: Charles Town

Tim and Judy Grams' undefeated homebred Moonlit Notion is a colt with deep family connections. By Ali Çetinok. Page 60

Steeplechase Times: China Beach wins in Carolina

Camden locals Kate and Bernie Dalton produce rich novice hurdle stakes score for St. Rita Racing. By Sean Clancy. Page 62

On our cover: Pimlico Race Course, in all its glory (from a few years back). The track faces total reconstruction after this year's Preakness.

Photo by Scott Serio/Eclipse Sportswire

— Entries —

Post Time 6

The Starting Gate 8

Next Chapters 20
Sadie's Magic

From the Editor 24

Retired Racehorse Project 51
Beginning to End

Broker's Tip 66
Incurably small time

— The Paddock —

Maryland newsletter 69

New Jersey newsletter 75

North Carolina newsletter 79

Pennsylvania newsletter 81

South Carolina newsletter 85

Virginia newsletter 87

West Virginia newsletter 89

Steeplechase newsletter 91

— Evening Stables —

Classifieds 93

Looking Back 94

Past Time 96

The WV BREEDERS PROGRAM OFFERS SOME OF THE BEST INCENTIVES IN THE NATION

Find another program like it in the country!

- At least FIVE West Virginia-restricted races are offered each racing day at West Virginia race tracks exclusively for accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- West Virginia-bred horses can go through their conditions twice, once in restricted WV-bred races, and then again in open races at West Virginia tracks.
- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes over $4 million to breeders, owners, and sire owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses each year.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out approximately $1 million in purses for accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses each October.
- $800,000 is distributed annually in restricted WV stakes races for accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- Supplemental Purse Awards are distributed quarterly for up to 10% of the share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner for accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winners of WV races.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with 160 days of racing per year.

For West Virginia-bred foals to be eligible for accreditation, mares foaling in West Virginia must become resident mares or be bred back to an accredited West Virginia stallion.

It's time to breed or own West Virginia-breds

Visit www.wvtba.com for details

Inquiries to info@wvtba.com
or call us at 304.728.6868

MARYLAND-BRED RACE FUND

Registered Maryland/Virginia-Bred and/or Maryland/Virginia-Sired Summer Stakes Schedule

June through August 2025

June 21 - Laurel Park

$100,000 BEN'S CAT 3YO & Up, 6 Furlongs, Turf

$100,000 JAMEELA 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 6 Furlongs, Turf

July 12 - Colonial Downs

$125,000 STAR DE NASKRA 3YO, 7 Furlongs

$125,000 MISS DISCO 3YO, Fillies, 7 furlongs

August 16 - Colonial Downs

$125,000 ALL BRANDY 3YO & Up, Fillies and Mares, 1 1/16 miles, Turf

$125,000 FIND 3YO & Up, 1 1/16 miles, Turf

August 23 - Colonial Downs

$125,000 JAMESTOWN 2YO, 5½ Furlongs, Turf

$125,000 DOLLEY MADISON 2YO, Fillies, 5½ Furlongs, Turf

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 33, Issue 5

321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136
(410) 252-2100 x116
Fax (888) 616-9797
MidAtlanticTB.com
Facebook.com/Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred

Director of publications: Barrie B. Reightler breightler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Editor: Joe Clancy editor@marylandthoroughbred.com 410-392-5867

Associate editor: Cindy Deubler cdeubler@marylandthoroughbred.com

Proofreaders: Ali Çetinok, Emily Stakem

Communications manager: Ali Çetinok acetinok@marylandthoroughbred.com

Contributors:
Sean Clancy sean@marylandthoroughbred.com
Tom Law tom@marylandthoroughbred.com

Circulation & member services: Emily Stakem emily@marylandthoroughbred.com

National advertising: Ken Ward Ken@TheWardGroupLLC.com

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred (ISSN 1056-3245) is owned and published monthly with the exception of July by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, 321 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136. (410) 252-2100; Fax (888) 616-9797. Subscription rate $36 per year. Subscription rate outside the U.S. $91 per year (surface mail), payable by U.S. money order or by bank draft payable in U.S. funds. Canadian GST No. 130277759; C.P.C. IPM No. 0956988. Subscription price included in annual membership dues to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

Periodicals postage paid at Lutherville-Timonium, Md. 21093 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred, 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136.

Single copies: $5 current issue, plus $4 postage and handling.
$15 Stallion Directory (December issue);
$15 Statistical Review (March issue), plus $5 postage and handling. Maryland residents add 6% sales tax.

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred is mailed to paid subscribers; to licensed owners and trainers in the eight-state region; and to active members of participating breeder associations in the region.

Printed by The Lane Press, Burlington, VT
Printed in the U.S.A.

Copyright 2025 Maryland Horse Breeders Association Inc.

AMERICAN HORSE PUBLICATIONS
PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN EQUINE MEDIA

PREAKNESS
150
149
PREAKNESS
SEIZE THE GREY
SATURDAY, MAY 17
PIMLICO RACE COURSE
GET TICKETS

Post Time

STRETCHING. Maryland-bred star Future Is Now (right) digs in late to edge Pandora's Gift (Ire) in the Giant's Causeway Stakes-G3 at Keeneland April 13. Trained at Fair Hill by Mike Trombetta, the daughter of Great Notion was making her first start of 2025 and first since the death of owner/breeder Larry Johnson in February.

Maddy Becker / Coady Media

Say It Again

"You can't raise horses through an internet portal."
Country Life Farm's Josh Pons, on the importance of hands-on care when raising horses

"Isn't this nice, the horses win the races and we win the awards."
Charles Parker of Barak Farm, co-owner/co-breeder of Shkhara Fire, champion Maryland-bred 2-year-old filly of 2024

"You could drop me off on the Appalachian Trail right now and I'd be prepared."
Nancy Dance, on her readiness for any/all weather challenges, while staffing the stable gate at the My Lady's Manor Races in April

"My biggest problem is the elevator doesn't work. I'm getting old and I've got to hike up there."
Steward Ross Pearce, on working in the rooftop stewards' room at Pimlico Race Course

"Don't miss the races. Please come to the races, and watch. Enjoy the horses, enjoy the place."
Maryland Jockey Club's Georganne Hale, on advice for fans at this year's Preakness (the last at Pimlico before a rebuild)

"Down the stretch they come . . ."
Opening line of trainer Bill Boniface's voicemail

"It's a lot. It's very sentimental. Everybody's worked hard and the family has been supportive every step of the way, so [the win] means the world."
Trainer Mike Trombetta, after Maryland-bred Future Is Now won Keeneland's Grade 3 Giant's Causeway Stakes April 13, her first start since the death of owner/breeder Larry Johnson

Names of the Month

Compiled by Ali Çetinok

Freed From Desire. The 3-year-old Maryland-bred gelding shares a name with the 1996 Eurodance song by Italian singer/songwriter Gala. He won at Charles Town in March.

Breaking Rules. Divining Rod's 4-year-old daughter out of the Peace Rules mare Missy Rules has won five races, two this year, through April 10.

Nineteenamendment. Bred by R. Larry Johnson, the late owner of Legacy Farm in Virginia, and currently raced by his heirs (including two daughters), the 5-year-old mare is by Constitution. The 19th amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees women the right to vote.

Absolutely Hot. Bred in Maryland by Randy and Gary Ridgely, the 3-year-old colt (a maiden winner at Gulfstream Park in March) is by Promises Fulfilled out of the Latent Heat mare Hot Fun.

91st Annual

MHBA

THOROUGHBRED Yearling Show

Sunday, June 29 at 9 a.m.

Judge: TBA

Purse awards totaling $40,000

Horse Show Ring, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium

Entries close June 2nd

$25 per horse • Call the MHBA office at 410/252-2100 or visit www.marylandthoroughbred.com for forms and information

Yearling Show Purse awards total $40,000

There are two opportunities to win purse awards with the yearling you show in 2025. A $40,000 MHBA Yearling Show purse will be split and distributed twice: $20,000 will go to the top four money-winners racing as 2-year-olds in 2026* and another $20,000 will be awarded the following year to the four highest-earning 3-year-old performers*.

**all earnings verifiable by The Jockey Club*

Four classes. Maryland-sired colts and geldings; Maryland-sired fillies; out-of-state-sired colts and geldings; out-of-state-sired fillies.

Cash awards. **$1,000** in CASH AWARDS to ribbon winners in each class plus **$1,000** for grand champion, **$500** for reserve champion. Trophies and ribbons in each class. Award of **$100** to the groom of the best turned-out yearling in each class. All entries must be eligible for Maryland-bred registration.

Maryland Million cash awards. The Maryland Million certified yearling earning the highest ribbon in each class will receive **$100.**

Get of sire award. **$1,000** to the sire whose offspring earn the most points.

2024 GRAND CHAMPION
Dark Hollow Farm and Hillwood Stable's The Factor colt out of Silver Sides, by Bandbox

Go Figure

6 Consecutive wins by Maryland-bred Rominski through April 10. The son of Great Notion and Undisputed Legend won three times for trainer Kieron Magee in spring 2024, got claimed for $55,000 by Brittany Russell for The Elkstone Group after the third victory and has added three more – one last year and back-to-back Laurel Park allowances in March. Bred by David Wade, the 6-year-old pushed his career numbers to a dozen wins and $457,434 in earnings.

75 Lifetime starts for Claw, now based at Charles Town with owner/trainer Michael Sandoval, through April 10. The 7-year-old Kentucky-bred traversed 12 tracks while making 18 starts in 2024, 15 in 2023, 18 in 2022,14 in 2021 and seven in 2020. The Cairo Prince gelding recorded his 10th victory in his most recent start (just his third of 2025) at Charles Town, a $5,000 claimer, April 3.

5,031 Horses who have participated in the Virginia-certified residency program since its launch in 2017. The program requires horses to spend at least six consecutive months at a registered Virginia farm or training center before they turn age 3.

2,693,312 Dollars authorized by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation to fund 16 new projects and 10 continuing projects at 17 universities as well as two career development awards. The 2025 slate brings Grayson's totals since 1940 to more than $44.4 million to underwrite more than 450 projects at 48 universities.

15 North American-based Thoroughbreds with four wins in 2025 (through April 10). The group included Maryland-bred Brett's World, a Penn National-based Poseidon's Warrior gelding.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Op-ed – Heated industry defenses ignore backstretch workers: A *New York Times* op-ed criticizing racing generated heated industry responses that barely addressed the plight of backstretch workers. Teresa Genaro comments.

Op-ed – Time to modernize the condition book: Using 21st century technology could be a cause that unites horsemen and management – and is long overdue – write guest authors Chris Brown and Maribeth Kalinich.

MTHA endorses change to claiming price rule: The Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association has endorsed a less restrictive claiming rule than is currently in place. The change, supported by the Maryland Jockey Club, needs approval from the Maryland Racing Commission.

Simply Joking, Quint's Brew lead Top Midlantic-Bred Poll: In the first Top Midlantic-bred Poll of 2025, Simply Joking (3yo) and Quint's Brew (older) sit at the top.

For Corrales, it's all about the opportunity: As a young jockey, Jose Corrales found opportunity in short supply. As a trainer, he focuses on providing apprentice riders a break. Emily White reports.

Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners

March 13 – April 13

Maryland-bred

BOGEY'S IMAGE, ch.g., 2017, Imagining—Casablanca Lily (Ire), by Hurricane Run (Ire). B-South Branch Equine; O-Dan Colhoun, Achsah O'Donovan & Harvey Goolsby; T-Joe Davies. $50,000 My Lady's Manor Timber S, Monkton, April 12.

FUTURE IS NOW, b.m., 2020, Great Notion—Past as Prelude, by Bernardini. B-R. Larry Johnson; O-Estate of R. Larry Johnson; T-Mike Trombetta. $250,000 Giant's Causeway S-G3, Keeneland, April 13.

KENNEBEC, b.h., 2018, Lookin At Lucky—Thisdanseistaken, by Gators N Bears. B-The Elkstone Group; O-Kirk Sutherland; T-Jose Silva Jr. $50,000 Cotton Fitzsimmons H (ncr—1 mi. 1:33.75), Turf Paradise, March 22.

SAFE TRUST, dk.b./br.f., 2022, Mosler—Annie Trust, by Super Ninety Nine. B/O-Barak Farm; T-Jose Corrales. $100,000 Beyond The Wire S, Laurel, March 22.

Pennsylvania-bred

DISCO EBO, b.m., 2019, Weigelia—Katarica Disco, by Disco Rico. B-St. Omers Farm (Pa.); O-LC Racing; T-Robert E. Reid Jr. $100,000 Primonetta S, Laurel, April 12.

You can register your Maryland-bred anytime.

Save a bundle

if you do it by

May 31st

of its yearling year

MHBA status	By May 31st of yearling year	June 1st or later	Savings
Breeder/Owner Member	**$100**	**$275**	**$175**
Non-member*	**$300**	**$475**	**$175**

Check eligibility and register online at MarylandThoroughbred.com.

Forms for mail-in registration available online at MarylandThoroughbred.com

Maryland-breds must be registered with the MHBA in order to earn bonuses from the Maryland Bred Race Fund Program.

*After you register your first foal, you automatically become a Breeder/Owner member of the MHBA, and every foal thereafter for one year is registered at the Breeder/Owner rate.

(EVERY REGISTRATION INCLUDES A $25 CONTRIBUTION TO THE MHBA'S BACKSTOP PROGRAM)

Got questions?

Call the MHBA at 410-252-2100 or email registrar@marylandthoroughbred.com

Maryland Horse Breeders Association • 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136

Maryland, Virginia partner on stakes program

By Joe Clancy

The scheduled hiatus of live racing in Maryland this summer reached some clarity for owners, breeders and developers in April with announcements concerning restricted stakes and breeder/developer bonuses.

In short, while Maryland does not host racing at Laurel Park or Pimlico in July and August, Maryland-bred and -sired:

• Bonuses will be paid to the breeders, owners and developers based on performances at Colonial Downs in Virginia and Delaware Park in Delaware.

• Similarly, bonuses will be paid to stallion owners at those tracks based on the performance of horses by Maryland stallions.

Both bonus programs will be based on a points system tied to race conditions.

• Stakes previously restricted to Maryland-bred or -sired horses will also be open to horses bred or sired in Virginia with several moving from Maryland to Colonial Downs. Solely Virginia-certified horses (foaled in any state) are not eligible for the restricted stakes.

The cooperation is a product of the expansion of live racing at Colonial, discussion between Maryland and Virginia to coordinate racing dates and a shared funding arrangement designed to maximize opportunities for owners, trainers and breeders.

Colonial will offer 41 live days starting July 9 and ending Sept. 13, with lucrative purses fueled in part by historic horse racing machines in the state. Instead of trying to compete against that meet, Maryland racing will pause but the April agreement means bonuses and restricted stakes races won't.

"This program came out of the initial discussions to work on coordination of schedules in the region," said trainer Katy Voss, president of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association in an MTHA statement. "With Laurel being dark in July and August, we had some stakes but no place to squeeze them in . . . It all seemed to make sense. We were told by state leaders to consider coordinating racing in the region."

The changes required adjustments to the funding mechanisms in place in Maryland and approval from the Maryland Racing Commission, which was granted in April.

State law permits the Maryland Bred Fund to distribute bonuses based on results of races outside of Maryland and allows for the funding of purses for Maryland-bred races. However, the fund cannot reward horses bred or sired in other states. Expanding eligibility of Maryland-bred stakes to Virginia horses created a problem as purses for those stakes have been equally shared by the Bred Fund and the Maryland purse account. Also, the purse account has funded owner and developer bonuses in Maryland.

In the new scenario, the Bred Fund will cover the out-of-state owner/developer bonuses from a pool of $600,000 while maintaining another $600,000 for breeder and stallion bonuses. The purse accounts in Maryland and Virginia will fund the restricted stakes, which receive value upgrades in addition to the eligibility change and are collectively worth $1.8 million.

"It's the best case scenario," said Cricket Goodall, executive director of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association. "We're spending the money that's been allocated while there's no racing in Maryland. That's important. This is an effort to get money to people while there's no racing here. We want to have the legislature see it, have the commission see it and realize it's about the health of the industry all year, not just while the tracks are running."

Based on the past four years of foal-crop numbers, there will be far more Maryland Thoroughbreds (3,071 horses ages 2-5) eligible than Virginia horses (518), but Virginia welcomed the agreement to bolster the racing product at Colonial Downs and extend the cooperation between the states.

"The races that were going to be run at Laurel and Pimlico while

WES CARTER TRAINING STABLE

UNDER TACK MAY 13 -15 • 8 AM
SELLING MAY 19 - 20 • FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC

See us at Timonium with great group of 2YOs!

22	**Goldencents** filly o/o Bourbonstreetlady KY-bred
33	**War Dancer** filly o/o Call Her Karma NY-bred
45	**Engage** filly o/o Carolina Tapper MD-bred
68	**War of Will** gelding o/o Cosmic Queen KY-bred
116	**Tapit** colt o/o Faypien KY-bred
171	**Hit It a Bomb** filly o/o Honey Dew List NY-bred
246	**Combatant** filly o/o Marilyn Lonhro NY-bred
249	**Fortune Ticket** filly o/o Matty's Sensation KY-bred
282	**Combatant** gelding o/o My Gray Lady NY-bred
314	**Engage** filly o/o Pink Tights MD-bred
400	**Mo Town** filly o/o Smart Set KY-bred
425	**Engage** filly o/o Success At Sunup KY-bred
438	**Editorial** filly o/o Swimmer MD-bred
463	**Central Banker** filly o/o Tiger Lotus NY-bred
538	**Tiz the Law** filly o/o Artillery Punch NY-bred
543	**Liam's Map** filly o/o Astonished KY-bred
548	**Solomini** filly o/o Autumn Ash NY-bred

Colonial is open had nowhere to go," said Debbie Easter, president of the Virginia Equine Alliance. "To the Virginia horses, the benefit is they've never been able to run for restricted black type all year and now they can. For Maryland, the benefit is they won't lose stakes, and the purses have all increased for those races."

In June, Maryland-restricted turf stakes the Jameela and Ben's Cat (upgraded to $100,000 each) at Laurel will also be open to horses bred or sired in Virginia. Four summer stakes from Maryland shift to Colonial Downs – the Miss Disco, Star de Naskra, Find and All Brandy. Turf stakes formerly restricted to Virginia horses, the Jamestown (2-year-olds) and newly-named Dolley Madison (2-year-old fillies), will now be open to Maryland horses. The Colonial races carry purses of $125,000 each. There will be an additional eight stakes, two each on four racing days, in December 2025 and early 2026.

Goodall and Easter said the concept would get a thorough review and be adjusted as necessary.

"As there are more Virginia-breds and Virginia -sired horses maybe it changes," said Goodall. "Virginia genuinely wants to work together and Katy had some good talks with Delaware too. I think we have better communications among the states than we have in a long time."

Easter agreed.

"The dynamics of our industry are changing so quickly and one of the things we have to do is be proactive," she said. "We're so reactive and we're never out ahead of the game. That would be the best thing to happen for this region . . . figure out something that makes people want to be here, stay here and be part of it. We're excited about it, excited about cooperating, excited to give people opportunities."

Back to the past with Maryland bonuses

Years ago, when Maryland was home to multiple racetracks which shared year-round racing dates, the Bred Fund paid awards based on a formula dividing a set allocation of money by the number of horses competing at a given meeting. As racing consolidated, and the funding grew, the bonus program adjusted to award percentages through the year.

This summer returns to the formula days as owners and developers will share a $600,000 bonus program for horses racing at Colonial Downs and Delaware Park during Maryland's live racing break July 4 through Aug. 17 based on a points system tied to the race conditions. Maryland-breds finishing first, second or third in non-restricted overnight races (excluding stakes, certified, or state-bred restricted races) at Colonial Downs and Delaware Park are eligible.

An additional $600,000 will be paid for breeder and stallion awards on all races based on the points system, with a purse cap of $100,000 on stakes.

State sunsets racetrack operating authority early

The Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority, created in 2023 to oversee the transition in ownership, control and racing/training facilities, was set to cease operations June 30 as part of a final state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Instead, the Maryland Stadium Authority will be responsible for building the new Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore and a new training center at Shamrock Farm in Woodbine. The Maryland Jockey Club, the entity created to manage racing in the state, will be overseen by the Maryland Economic Development Corporation. The MTROA was expected to steer Maryland racing through June 2027. ■

EST. 2019

SAFE BET PROGRAM

Dear Breeder,

Breeding to a fourth-year stallion is a bet on early racetrack success—one that can be highly rewarding.

In 2024, our freshman sire Thousand Words delivered, siring a Saratoga graded stakes winner among other top performers. Breeders who supported him through the Safe Bet Program bred at a $5,000 fee, with built-in protection. Following his strong start, his 2025 fee rose to $12,500.

Not all stallions hit early, but Safe Bet provides risk protection. In 2025, we extend this program to four freshman stallions with promising credentials, each standing for $5,000 S&N. **If any fails to sire a graded black-type winner from their first two-year-olds, participating breeders will owe no stud fee for their 2026 foal.**

That's protection only offered at SPENDTHRIFT

Learn more at SpendthriftFarm.com/SafeBet

Milestones

Appointed

As executive director of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association, racing executive Jill Byrne, replacing Debbie Easter whose role will focus on industry initiatives with the Virginia Equine Alliance, of which she is president. Byrne will continue to serve

in her existing role as vice president of marketing and strategic planning for the VEA. A Virginia native and graduate of the University of Virginia, Byrne spent several decades in roles around the country – on-air host and handicapper with TVG, senior director of industry relations with the Breeders' Cup and director of broadcast operations with Churchill Downs. She returned to Virginia to serve as vice president of racing operations at Colonial Downs in 2019 until joining the VEA in 2023. With her combined VEA and VTA responsibilities, Byrne is once again based in Charlottesville. "I look forward to continue to represent the Virginia horsemen and women, and work with all stakeholders as our racing and breeding programs in the state are growing and prospering," said Byrne. "Virginia has a renowned history in the Thoroughbred industry and our future is brighter than ever." Like Byrne, Easter looked to the future. "Our Virginia Equine Alliance team has accomplished so much over the last seven years, but we need to continue to keep our foot on the gas if we are going to see continued growth for our Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries," she said. "Jill has done a fantastic job heading up marketing for the VEA and I am so pleased that she is willing to also take on a role with the VTA. With her marketing knowledge and passion for Virginia's Thoroughbred industry, the VTA will be in very good hands."

Available

From The Jockey Club, the 2025 edition of its fact book in the resources section at jockeyclub.com. The fact book, a statistical and informational guide to Thoroughbred breeding, racing and auction sales in North America, is updated quarterly. Later this year, many of the statistics will begin to be updated on a weekly basis, and new statistics will be added. The 2025 state fact books, which feature detailed breeding, racing and auction sales information specific to numerous states, Canadian provinces and Puerto Rico, are also available on the website. The state fact books are updated monthly. The 2025 edition of the *American Racing Manual* is now available to download as well.

Halted

The Charles Town winning streak of Gran Andrews, who finished third at the West Virginia track April 4. The Florida-bred son of Jess's Dream had won 11 consecutive races at Charles Town, a streak that began in February 2024. Through April 10, Gran Andrews had won 17 of 39 lifetime starts and was 12-for-15 at Charles Town.

Entered

In Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's May 2-year-old sale at Timonium, Md., a catalog full of 550 horses (before supplements). The group includes 22 Maryland-breds, 12 Pennsylvania-breds, five Virginia-breds, four New Jersey-breds and two West Virginia-breds. The under tack show is scheduled for three sessions May 13-15 (8 a.m. start) with the sale taking place May 19 and 20 (11 a.m.). The 2024 sale realized a gross of $32.9 million.

VIVE LA REVOLUTION

F. o/o **Strange Magic**
½-sister to multi. **SW GALAXINA**
42 days old

C. o/o **Drama Mama**
½-sister to **SP Hannah's Smile**
7 days old

F. o/o **Tiz Cecile**
½-sister to G1-placed **Gran Druida**
4 days old

C. o/o **One Call Away**
½ to multi. **SW/G3P MRS. ORB**
36 days old

C. o/o **Miz Midtown**
½-sister to stakes-placed
Midtown Lights
41 days old

C. o/o **JC's Shooting Star**
multi. SW of over $770K
44 days old

C. o/o **Jojo Warrior**
MGSW/G1-placed earner
of nearly $400K; ½-brother
to **SW IMPULSE BUY**
34 days old

F. o/o **Berning Rose**
SW of over $220K;
½-sister to 2 multi. SWs
9 days old

AMERICANREVOLUTION

Constitution - Polly Freeze, by Super Saver | $12,500

NEW YORK'S MOST POPULAR SIRE IN 2024

CI: 1.44 **CPI: 2.00**

ROCKRIDGE STUD LLC

Standing in partnership with:
WinStar Farm, **CHC**, **Inc.**, **Taylor Made Stallions**,
Mill Creek Farm, and **Fortune Farm**.

Erin Robinson *859.421.7531* *Lere Visagie* *518.851.6616*
5384 Route 9H-23 Hudson, New York 12534 www.rockridgestud.com

NEW YORK THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS INC. NYTB

NYBREDS.COM
NEW YORK THOROUGHBRED BREEDING & DEVELOPMENT FUND

Photos by **Barbara D. Livingston**
and **Chad Robinson**

Triple Crown hopefuls dotted with regional influence

You know what they say about Thoroughbred pedigrees, dig deeply enough and the horses are all related to somebody. The theory applies to finding Mid-Atlantic connections to the 2025 hopefuls for the Triple Crown races (in mid-April anyway).

Derby points leader and Blue Grass Stakes-G1 winner **Burnham Square** is solidly Kentucky-bred, but bet you didn't know that his second dam Beautiful Noise (a Grade 2 winner for Janis Whitham) is a half-sister to distance-loving Tobias, who won a flat race at the Callaway Gardens steeplechase meet in 2015. Both are out of the Secretariat mare Listen Well.

Arkansas Derby-G1 winner **Sandman**'s pedigree is also anything but Mid-Atlantic, but his second dam Music Room is a half-sister to major steeplechase winner Top of the Bill, who raced for Randleston Farm and Virginia trainer Jimmy Day.

Santa Anita Derby-G2 winner **Journalism**'s dam, Mopotism, was bred in Kentucky by North Carolina resident Frank Batten. The colt's fourth dam, Peppy Raja, raced in Maryland for Sondra and Howard Bender and trainer Larry Murray. She produced Maryland-bred winners Peppy Broad, Andiamo and Burst First before being sold while carrying Group 1-placed Mowbray (by Maryland sire Opening Verse).

Louisiana Derby-G2 winner **Tiztastic** is out of Pennsylvania-bred

MCCARLEE PERKINS / COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

ERIN JOHNSTON / COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Rebel Stakes winner Coal Battle (top), Louisiana Derby winner Tiztastic, and Wood Memorial-placed Passion Rules all are out of regional mares.

mare Keesha. Bred by Betty Moran's Brushwood Stable, the daughter of Tapit never raced. Her dam, Wile Cat, was also bred by Brushwood in Pennsylvania. Moran bought Wile Cat's dam, Grade 1 winner Strategic Maneuver, for $800,000 as a broodmare (in foal to Danzig) in 1995. The family includes graded/group winners Cat Fighter, Ishiguru and Shumoos. Moran sold Wile Cat for $1.3 million as a yearling.

Brushwood can also claim a connection to Fountain of Youth-G2 winner **Sovereignty**. The Godolphin homebred is out of Pennsylvania-bred Crowned, a $1.2 million yearling who never raced. Brushwood bred her out of the Grade 1-winning Empire Maker mare Mushka.

Rebel Stakes-G2 winner **Coal Battle** is out of West Virginia-bred mare Wolfblade, a daughter of Midshipman who won nine races in the Mid-Atlantic. Wolfblade was bred by Schiano Racing, which raced her stakes-placed dam Venice Queen.

Chunk of Gold, twice a Grade 2 runner-up this year, traces to Maryland-bred T. V. Commercial mare Terrorbly. Bred by Allaire duPont in 1974, Terrorbly won three times and produced eight-time winner and Grade 1-placed Beth's Song (Chunk of Gold's fourth dam).

Hall of Fame steeplechase jockey turned trainer and Maryland breeder Rigan McKinney connects to **Citizen Bull**, last year's 2-year-old male champion and this year's Robert B. Lewis-G2 winner. McKinney bred Citizen Bull's fourth dam, Distinctive Elaine. Her dam, Maryland-bred 2-year-old filly champion of 1964 Jackie Dare, was bred in Maryland by Walter "Jack" Edgar's Woodlawn Farm. Later purchased by McKinney,

Jackie Dare is also responsible for the female line of 2020 Belmont Stakes-G1 winner Tiz the Law (sire of Tiztastic).

Blue Grass runner-up **East Avenue**'s third dam Tempting Note was bred in Maryland by Stoneworth Farm and won twice at Laurel Park for Connie Scherr and trainer Ben Perkins Jr.

Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas' classic hopeful and Virginia Derby winner **American Promise** shares some female lineage with Rokeby Stable's Virginia-bred steeplechaser Dream Magic, who finished third in the 1973 Colonial Cup.

New York-bred **River Thames**, second in the Fountain of Youth and third in the Blue Grass, is out of Maryland-bred Proportionality. She won twice at Laurel Park for breeder Sagamore Farm before getting claimed.

Wood Memorial-G2 runner-up **Grande**'s fourth dam Meteor Stage was bred in Virginia by Thomas Mellon Evans. Before a successful broodmare career, she raced in the region for trainer Ross Pearce, now a steward in Maryland. Meteor Stage's foals included Eclipse Award-winning 2-year-old filly Pleasant Stage, Grade 2 winner Colonial Play (the dam of Grade 1 winner and $2.3 million earner Marsh Side) and Grade 3 winner Stage Colony.

Maryland-bred **Passion Rules** finished third in the Wood Memorial, his stakes debut for Calumet Farm and trainer Brad Cox. Bred by Thornmar Farm's Charles and Cynthia McGinnes, the son of Friesan Fire won twice at the Fair Grounds and once at Oaklawn Park this winter. His Maryland-bred dam Goodnight Angel won three times in the region and has also produced four other winners. They all trace back to New Jersey-bred Muffies Muffin, who won 10 races for owner/breeder/veterinarian Dr. George Rosenberger before selling to Thornmar.

If all that's not enough to follow, Marylander Matt Dorman's Determined Stables owns part of Wood Memorial-G2 winner **Rodriguez** and last year's 2-year-old male champion Citizen Bull. ■

SEND YOUR MARE TO MARYLAND
After she foals here, breed to one of our stallions and your 2025 foal is eligible to be a registered Maryland-bred*
Maryland-breds* run for 30% MORE
on earned purses in all overnight races in MD
(Currently split 15% Owner bonus, 15% Developer bonus, as determined by the Maryland Horsemen's Purse Account and administered by MTHA)
Currently earn 22.5% Breeder Bonuses
on earned purses for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in all overnight races in Maryland, plus bonuses on earned purses for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in Maryland stakes races (capped at $100,000) **
And beginning with 2 year olds of 2025
MARYLAND-SIRED Maryland-breds* earn 40% higher BREEDER BONUSES
than out-of-state-sired–currently 31.5%–on all overnight races
*Horses must be registered with the Maryland Horse Breeders Association to be eligible to earn bonuses
**As of 2/2025; subject to subject to change as determined semi-annually by the Maryland Racing Commission
MARYLAND: A foundation of greatness, a bright future ahead
Maryland Stallions
BLOFELD (QUALITY ROAD)
BOURBON COURAGE (LION HEART)
CUPID (TAPIT)
DIVINING ROD (TAPIT)
ENDORSED (MEDAGLIA D'ORO)
ENGAGE (INTO MISCHIEF)
FIRST MONDAYS (CURLIN)
FRIESAN FIRE (A.P. INDY)
GALAWI (IRE) (DUBAWI-Ire)
GOLDEN LAD (MEDAGLIA D'ORO)
GREAT NOTION (ELUSIVE QUALITY)
KOBE'S BACK (FLATTER)
MOSLER (WAR FRONT)
NOT ABROAD (NOT FOR LOVE)
UNCLE LINO (UNCLE MO)
V. I. P. TICKET (WINDSOR CASTLE)
WARRANT (CONSTITUTION)
Maryland Horse.
MarylandThoroughbred.com

— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Sadie's Magic

SARAH ANDREW

Andrew and Michelle Michael have shared plenty of moments with Sadie's Magic.

It seemed harmless enough at first. A small bump above a mare's eye; the kind of thing that prompts a, "What did you do?" upon discovery.

But something about it caused Michelle Michael to contact her veterinarian, Dr. Stefanie DeNoia, and request a farm call to examine Sadie's Magic. What transpired over the next six months formed the nucleus of a collaboration of veterinary professionals who became "Sadie's Squad."

Bred by Erika Neuberg of Nearaway Farm, Sadie's Magic was foaled in New Jersey March 14, 2013. By Street Magician out of the Two Davids mare Partner's Devon, she ran for her breeder for the first two years of her career. She won her debut for a $5,000 claiming price at Delaware Park June 11, 2016, for trainer Samuel Cronk. Claimed away from Neuberg by Bell Gable Stable in her first start in 2018, Sadie's Magic ran for three trainers over the next 14 months.

Racing for Bell Gable and trainer Scott Lake Aug. 31, 2019, she ran in a 5½-furlong race for a $6,250 tag. The chart reads that she "dropped back suddenly on the turn, collapsed at the top of the stretch unseating the rider, was able to get to her feet after a few moments while bleeding profusely from the nostrils and was vanned off."

Neuberg customarily follows her homebreds and immediately contacted the mare's connections to offer to take her back and retire her. They agreed, and Neuberg drove her trailer to Delaware Park to retrieve Sadie's Magic. She won twice in 23 starts, placed in nine others, and earned $38,381.

Michael, an attorney by profession, was at that time boarding her horse Thundering Success at Nearaway Farm.

"I have a now 22-year-old Thoroughbred who I got as a teenager and he was slowing down a little," Michael said. "I was looking for something to take to the Retired Racehorse Project and then ultimately have as a forever horse. My trainer suggested I look at Sadie. I heard her whole story, went to meet her and fell in love with her."

After a few months of rest and downtime at the farm, Sadie's Magic officially belonged to Michael in November 2019. The partnership flourished, and the mare's second career sailed along.

"She was called Sensible Sadie because she has always had the nicest, kindest demeanor. She tries her heart out, and I think that's evident in her last race where she literally ran herself into the ground. She will just do whatever you ask. I have to be hyper-cognizant because she won't say no.

"I'm an amateur equestrian; I do a little bit of everything at a lower level. We had her scoped, and they didn't think there was anything from the bleeding incident that would impact her in her second career. But it was something we kept an eye on. Fortunately, that particular issue hasn't presented again."

Sadie's Magic and Michael foxhunted, competed in hunter derbies, dressage, the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover and the Real Rider Cup. They began eventing in late 2022 and won their first schooling horse trial.

In May 2021, Michael and her husband Andrew purchased Emerald Pines Farm, in Waterford Works, N.J., and Sadie's Magic and Thundering Success relocated. Two years later, Michael noticed a small bump on her mare's forehead. It was unremarkable enough but, choosing to err on the side of caution, she contacted DeNoia. The veterinarian showed up the next day with her ultrasound probe. Finding the bone a bit irregular, she recommended that Michael take her horse for further examination with Dr. Jennifer Smith at New Jersey Equine Clinic in Millstone Township.

> "They said, 'If you come here, we're going join arms with you and do everything we can to help Sadie fight this.' They truly did that and then some."
>
> *– Michelle Michael, about the efforts of Auburn University veterinarians*

"At first Dr. Smith thought it was a little bone chip; she might have hit her head on something, so she did a surgery to de-bulk it and then cleaned it out. Then over the course of a few months, it kind of re-filled. But the horse was acting completely normal; I was doing hunter shows, I was eventing, she was out trail riding. You could palpate it, and she didn't seem to care. But after cross-country schooling one day in Medford in July, I took her ear bonnet off and was looking at it. I decided to take her back to Dr. Smith even if she thought I was crazy."

Smith tried the de-bulking procedure again. Concerned that the bump had refilled, she performed a biopsy. The results shocked all involved.

"It was just such a strange thing," Michael said. "I was at work when she got the results back. Ordinarily she'll just text, 'Everything's fine,' but I got a voicemail from her and I could just tell from her tone. She sounded alarmed. When I called her back, she said it was a sarcoma. I had never heard of sarcomas in horses, and my brain immediately went to 'sarcoid.' But she said 'No, it's not a sarcoid.' "

A sarcoid is a fairly common, and benign, skin tumor. A sarcoma is cancer.

Their next step was a trip to the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center for a CT scan. New Bolton has a standing CT machine capable of accommodating a horse's head – one of the few available – and Dr. David Levine performed the scan.

"He called and said, 'I'm a little speechless looking at this,' " Michael said. "It was crazy to see the amount of surface in her skull that was impacted. He said, 'I haven't seen something

like this. My concern is that the proximity to the brain, if not treated, she could have months, maybe a year, but I doubt it.' "

Devastated by the news, Michael sobbed in the New Bolton parking lot. She called Smith, who helped her understand not only the diagnosis but possible next steps.

"I wanted to make sure I fully understood every possible option," Michael said. "It's hard when you get that news along with, 'Well, we can euthanize.' I'll never make a horse suffer – I truly believe there are times when that is the kindest and most compassionate thing to do. But it was difficult when the horse was 10 years old and standing there like, 'I'm fine, let's go home.' I was not about to give up and just let her go."

Researching treatment options became a second full-time job for Michael. Radiation therapy was the recommended treatment. The only two hospitals near the East Coast offering radiation for equines were Ohio State University and Auburn University's John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital.

"I first contacted Ohio State and was told that at that time, their linear accelerator machine was down," Michael said. "They suggested I contact Auburn. I had already seen that one of the top oncologists in the nation – Dr. Gregory Almond – was based at Auburn. I sent Dr. Almond a cold email, introduced myself and said my horse was just diagnosed with this rare cancer, can you please help me. I was pretty desperate."

Dr. Almond responded quickly, agreeing to hop on a video call with Michael and Smith. From then on, the wheels were in motion. Treatment plans were mapped out. Michael and her husband looked into transportation, only to find that the more than 800-mile, 15-hour journey from New Jersey to Alabama was not a regular route for commercial shippers. Additionally, it was prohibitively expensive.

Neuberg provided her gooseneck trailer, enabling Sadie's Magic to travel comfortably in a box stall. Andrew Michael's high-school friend, Nicole Zardus, offered a stall and paddock at her Huntleigh Sport Horses near Southern Pines, N.C., as a layover to break up the trip. The couple booked a suite at an Extended Stay near Auburn, and in early September 2023 they headed south to begin the treatment for the next several weeks.

The protocol required the mare to be anesthetized 10 times over the next month. Radiation sessions last a bit over an hour and were administered Monday, Wednesday and Friday with weekends off.

"They were very honest, saying they don't treat many horses and had not seen that type of cancer," Michael said. "They said, 'If you come here, we're going join arms with you and do everything we can to help Sadie fight this.' They truly did that and then some."

Along with Almond, Dr. Lindsey Boone and several veterinary students were assigned to the case.

"Dr. Boone was predominantly responsible for getting her under and making sure everything was safe," Michael said. "They walked us through the room where they anesthetize them; they walked us into the linear accelerator and showed us how that worked. They sat us down in front of a big screen and showed us all her images. It was an education I never wanted to get, but I'm so grateful having gone through it. Auburn did not have to do that for us, but they took the time and were so supportive."

On Oct. 16, 2023, the Auburn vets and oncologists held a graduation ceremony for Sadie's Magic, complete with mortarboard and diploma. The Michaels rang the ceremonial bell after the mare's final treatment.

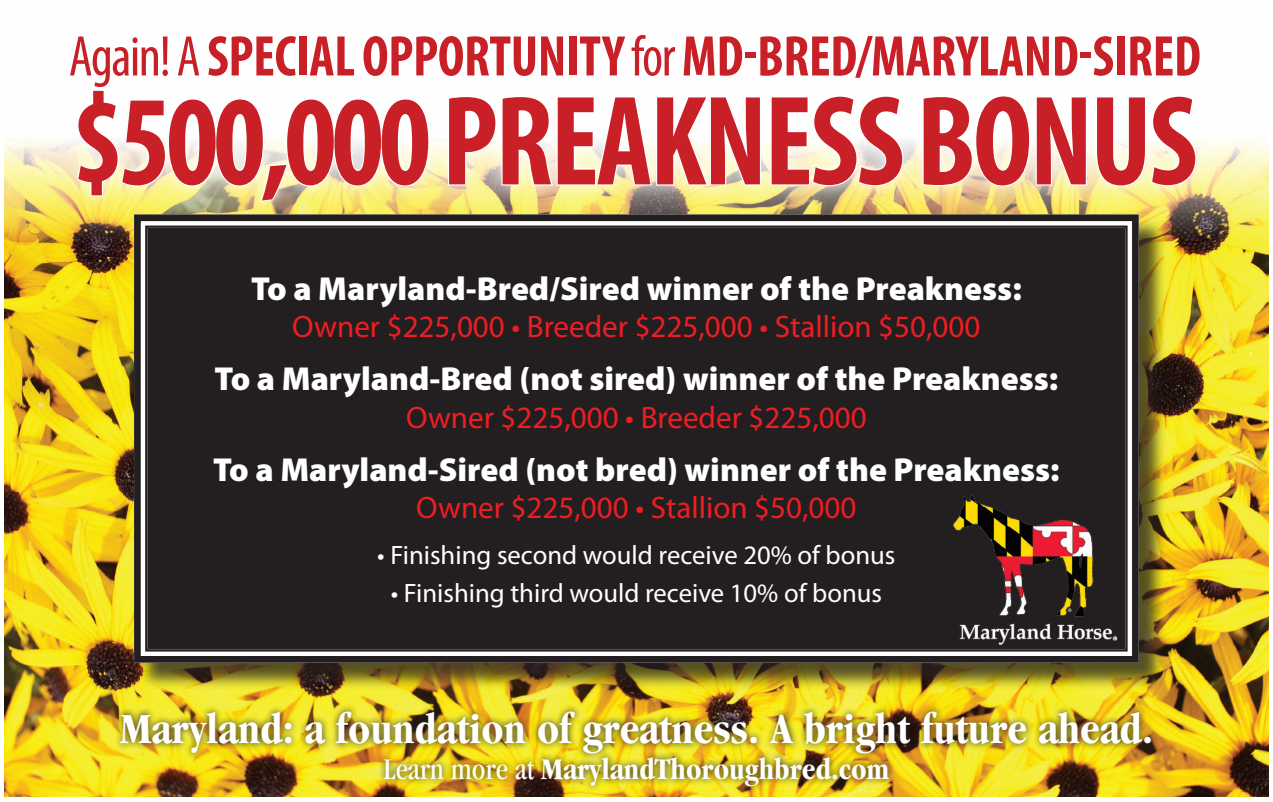
Post-treatment scans cleared her to resume training within a year. In September 2024, Sadie's Magic and Michelle Michael returned to competition at the Stone Tavern Schooling Horse Trials at the Horse Park of New Jersey. Michael "cried happy tears after every phase. That was our Olympics."

It felt like winning a gold medal.

"My baseline was if she can be a happy, healthy pasture pet, that's a success for me," said Michael. "I didn't ever have to sit on her again if she can just live and live a good life. That's a win."

As always, Sadie's Magic exceeded expectations. ■

Work Play Rest
As your horse's work load changes, so do his nutritional needs. And now, more than ever, there's an economic factor to worry about.
How do you maximize your dollars without skimping to the detriment of your racing and breeding stock? Just ask Michelle. She's the best in the region when it comes to solving a feed or management challenge. Only at The Mill.
ANNE LITZ PHOTO
410.838.6111 • www.TheMillStores.com
FUELED BY The Mill®


Again! A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY for MD-BRED/MARYLAND-SIRED
$500,000 PREAKNESS BONUS
To a Maryland-Bred/Sired winner of the Preakness:
Owner $225,000 • Breeder $225,000 • Stallion $50,000
To a Maryland-Bred (not sired) winner of the Preakness:
Owner $225,000 • Breeder $225,000
To a Maryland-Sired (not bred) winner of the Preakness:
Owner $225,000 • Stallion $50,000
• Finishing second would receive 20% of bonus
• Finishing third would receive 10% of bonus
Maryland Horse.
Maryland: a foundation of greatness. A bright future ahead.
Learn more at MarylandThoroughbred.com

— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

Old Pimlico's Places

The gentle rise from the stable-area horsepath to the track near the quarter pole, where you can hear the infield chaos and see the first glimpse of the Preakness Day crowd in the Pimlico Race Course grandstand.

In 2014, California Chrome's 77-year-old trainer Art Sherman walked there before the Preakness, and thought about a lifetime with horses.

The two-person-wide alley next to the winner's circle that leads to the track's outside rail.

Sherman's son and assistant Alan watched from there, alongside security officer Damon Lann, a prison guard from the Baltimore City Jail. They whooped and hollered, bear-hugged and stumbled through a gate and onto the track as their horse charged to victory.

The spot at the end of the short chute between the indoor paddock and the racetrack, where the grooms gather in a mix of anticipation, anxiousness, hope and cultures.

In 2012, trainer Doug O'Neill's assistant Jack Sisterson watched I'll Have Another win the Preakness from there. As his horse gutted out a neck victory, the former University of Louisville soccer player leaped over the outside rail as if he'd headed in a World Cup winner.

The metal outdoor steps to the jockeys' room from the ground floor. They're steep enough to feel like a ladder, they make a right turn about halfway up and they've been used by the biggest names to ride racehorses.

In 2016, Kent Desormeaux practically floated up after winning the Preakness on a horse trained by his brother Keith. Exaggerator did the work but Kent – whose Hall of Fame career took off in Maryland 30 years earlier – felt the importance of a Preakness win and the weight of achieving it with family.

The oversized shoebox of a press area, and the hallway leading to it, on the roof. Before the elevator became less reliable than an old Chevette, Pimlico officials used to bring the winning connections up there for a post-race press conference.

In 1991, jockey Jerry Bailey tried to explain Hansel's early charge to the front on the far turn and whose idea it was. Bailey started the sentence with, "Had I had my rathers . . ." *Sports Illustrated* changed it to druthers.

ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

The far side of the stakes barn, over by the corner of Rogers and Winner avenues. As bucolic as a city racetrack can get, the spot has grass, shade from a line of trees, a fence to lean on, park benches, some isolation.

In 2020 (the October Preakness thanks to Covid), Kenny McPeek hosed Swiss Skydiver's legs late one morning – a trainer and a racehorse doing trainer/racehorse things. McPeek talked about life, his early days, his star filly. Then she went out and made history.

The other side of the stakes barn facing the building. Busier than its parallel twin, the long shedrow feels like more of a racetrack with a parking lot full of courtesy cars, veterinarians' trucks, groups of school children on a tour and action in all directions.

In 2021, trainer Michael "Whitey" McCarthy rested his elbows on an oversized sawhorse and talked about Rombauer like he had a shot in a race dominated – in every way possible – by Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit and trainer Bob Baffert. Then went out and won the Preakness.

The rooms at the end of the barns. Grooms and other stable staffers used to live in them. Now, they're more like temporary rest stops for trainers, van drivers, exercise riders and grooms.

In 2011, trainer Graham Motion ducked into one to adjust his tie and throttle back the pressure of bringing Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom to town for the Preakness. The Marylander went over the shipping-out schedule with van driver Keith Cooper, helped sort some buckets, adjusted the keepers on a bridle, anything to occupy time and shut it all down for a moment. Motion's horse rallied from 13th early to finish second, a half-length from victory.

The alley beside the turf course and the infield winner's circle and hospitality tents. Somehow, it's an oasis of unused grass in a place where every inch seems to have a purpose.

In 2024, Audie Otto stood there and talked about what it's like to breed a classic winner after Seize the Grey captured the Preakness. Over her shoulder, bedlam erupted from hundreds of MyRacehorse partners who chanted, yelled, cheered, complained and stomped their feet so hard they broke a set of bleachers. She stayed calm, talked about her mother, appreciated a horse.

The canvas. Old Hilltop hosted its first race in 1870, on something of a dare, and played host to the best in sport for more than a century and a half. But, over time, the various responsible parties in charge of Pimlico didn't do her justice. Stately wooden structures were replaced by concrete block, steel and glass. In 1966, her Victorian-style clubhouse burned to the ground. She got old, fell apart. "The old girl" as so many call her needs to be rebuilt, reimagined, reenergized.

In 2025, this version of her will host a final Preakness. The wrecking balls, bulldozers, engineers, architects, project managers, political leaders and corporate executives stand ready.

Pimlico. Man, what a place. Here's hoping all the plans, and people, come through for her. ■

FINISH

Lasting Impact

MEMORIES RESONATE AS PIMLICO HOSTS FINAL PREAKNESS BEFORE RECONSTRUCTION

ECLIPSE SPORTSWIRE

So here it is. The last Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course, the Pimlico Race Course everybody knows anyway.

You going to miss the old place? Sure you are. It's OK to admit it. For all its grit, grime, dirt, dilapidation, leaky pipes, oddball staircases to nowhere, secret areas of air-conditioning greatness (IYKYK), fishbowl paddock, uphill/downhill grandstand, folding chairs, ceiling tiles (well some) and infield legends, Baltimore's racetrack maintains a special place in the city, the state and racing.

Also the 150th Preakness, this year's event will make people think about all that happened on the 70-acre property surrounded by city streets in the Park Heights neighborhood. When Pimlico opened in 1870, Baltimore was a far different place. Nearby Druid Hill Park played a role as an assembly point for early patrons who arrived by horse-drawn carriages. A railroad spur, built especially for the purpose, helped fans access the track. There was no Jones Falls Expressway, no LifeBridge Health campus, no rushing to make the lights on Northern Parkway.

Pimlico gets its name from English settlers in Colonial days, only they spelled it Pemblicoe on a settlement charter from 1669. The racetrack wasn't even technically within city limits when constructed. That didn't come until the border expanded in 1918. Baltimore grew up around the track, hence the shoehorned nature of it all now.

Long discussed, reconstruction is destined to start this year. Laurel Park will host the 151st Preakness in 2026. The 152nd is supposed to be at a new Pimlico, as part of an investment backed by more than $400 million in bonds and centered around a new management structure, training center in Woodbine and all the other bits and pieces of a reborn Thoroughbred industry in the state.

While that remains to be experienced, there's no doubting the impact of Pimlico on the people, some deeply involved in Maryland racing and its signature event, others only marginally so. The Preakness and Pimlico matter, and all you have to do is listen.

Pimlico in the 1920s looked more like a country track.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Master Derby (left) and Darrel McHargue rally to win the 100th Preakness in 1975. McHargue celebrates on the winner's podium.

SKIP BALL COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY (2)

A winner 50 years ago, McHargue still feels Preakness

It was on a redeye flight, somewhere between coasts, sometime between races, when it hit Darrel McHargue. Well, Jorge Velasquez in the seat across the aisle, hit McHargue.

"What are you going to do now?" the 28-year-old jockey asked.

"What do you mean?" the 20-year-old jockey asked back.

"Your career. Are you going to New York or are you going to California?"

"Well, I don't know if I'm ready for that..."

"Man, you just won the Preakness . . ."

The Panamanian future Hall of Famer stretched Preakness across a thousand syllables. The Oklahoman kid heard every one of them. McHargue took his advice and left the easy pickings of the Mid-Atlantic to stake his claim in California and eventually a spot in racing's Hall of Fame.

Upsetting the 1975 Preakness Stakes – the 100th running – on Master Derby started it all.

"It was a foundation block for my career," said McHargue.

In front of a then-record crowd of 75,216, Master Derby and McHargue stalked the pace in the Preakness, kicked off the turn and held off Kentucky Derby winner Foolish Pleasure to win by a length. Drifting out late, Master Derby and McHargue survived a claim of foul by Jacinto Vasquez on Foolish Pleasure. Bred and owned by Robert Lehmann's Golden Chance Stable and trained by William "Smiley" Adams, Master Derby paid $48.80 and catapulted a 2,553-win career for his jockey.

"It was a surprise that day because he had a clean trip in the Derby, but it just didn't seem like he got the trip, the distance, but when I talked to the trainer he said, 'Nah, I missed a little time with him.' I didn't know that, I said, 'All right. Great,' " McHargue said in April. "Sure enough, he was forwardly placed, and he was the type of horse who would sit there and wait for you to tell him what to do and when you did, he gave it his all. He was a push-button horse. He didn't make mistakes. I might have made a mistake, but he didn't."

McHargue didn't make many mistakes.

Earlier on Preakness Day, a trainer walked up the jocks' room stairs at Pimlico with a set of silks in his hand. McHargue had seen photos of the trainer.

"Mr. Frankel, Darrel McHargue. Can I help you?"

"Yeah, can you see that the clerk of scales gets these colors?"

"Sure."

McHargue delivered Preakness pacesetter Native Guest's silks to the clerk of scales.

A few months later, Bobby Frankel called McHargue and asked him if he wanted to come to California. The jockey never left, winning an Eclipse Award in 1978, retiring in 1988, becoming a steward in 1990 and getting inducted to racing's Hall of Fame by the Historic Review Committee in 2020.

"You never know," McHargue said. "You never know."

As for the 50-year anniversary of winning the Preakness, planting that foundation block, McHargue doesn't need Velasquez to remind him of the enormity.

"It's hard to believe. I didn't think I'd make it this far. As a jockey, with the elements of danger, you're really fortunate to live a long life," said McHargue, 70. "Here we are 50 years later and I'm able to enjoy that memory that's put up on your mantel that nobody can touch. As time goes on, and you wear it, you see how big it was."

– Sean Clancy

Twenty years on, Afleet Alex memory delivers for owner, trainer

Chuck Zacney knows he's biased. So does everyone else. But it doesn't matter, Afleet Alex's win in the 2005 Preakness may be the best performance in the race's history.

If you need a refresher, cue up YouTube. Try to bypass the low-def version. From post 12 in a 14-horse field, Afleet Alex navigates to the two path by the first turn and rates in 10th. He passes seven horses on the inside to reach third before the quarter pole when jockey Jeremy Rose angles out from behind High Limit and goes after leader Scrappy T. Responding to the left-handed stick of Ramon Dominguez, Scrappy T ducks out hard and crosses Afleet Alex's path. Third in a rough-trip Kentucky Derby-G1 two weeks earlier, Afleet Alex clips heels, stumbles and nearly sends Rose to the dirt. Angry, motivated, something, Afleet Alex gathers himself, goes back to the inside, changes to his right lead and rolls past Scrappy T to win by an easy 4¾ lengths.

In the horsemen's boxes up a level from the track, the Cash is King partnership owners – Zacney, Joe Lerro, Joe Judge, Jennifer Reeves and Bob Brittingham – and company went a little crazy.

"We were beside ourselves," Zacney said in April. "Everybody runs to the winner's circle and all the sudden there were a hundred people there. We got some order to it, all the excitement, the horse went in, and we had a blast. As we left the winner's circle, we went back to the stable area – win or lose we did that – and I finally got to see the replay and didn't realize how bad it was until then. How did they not go down? How did Jeremy stay on?"

Tim Ritchey had the same thoughts, then and now.

"The athleticism of him to flip that leg out – do you realize how fast that leg had to move to catch himself?" the trainer said in April. "He put that left leg out and just pushed himself back up. At the same time Jeremy was coming off and when Alex came back up he kind of pushed Jeremy right back in the saddle. In super slow motion it's phenomenal to watch."

Ability, luck, fate, divine intervention . . . pick your reason, Afleet Alex and Rose created a one-of-a-kind performance.

They backed it up three weeks later in the Belmont Stakes-G1 to clinch an Eclipse Award as 3-year-old champion. The Florida-bred was somewhat a local. He sold (for $75,000) at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's May 2-year-old sale, and trained with Ritchey at Delaware Park (winning his first two starts there as a 2-year-old). The Cash is King people were from Philadelphia. Rose was a Mid-Atlantic regular.

One more local layer came via the connection to the Pennsylvania charity Alex's Lemonade Stand, whose namesake and founder Alex Scott died at age 8 in August 2004. Zacney read an article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, made a donation to help the group reach $1 million in donations, and didn't think much beyond that. Another article about what the foundation might do next spurred Zacney to reach out to Alex's mother Liz Scott about trying to connect the horse to the effort to fight childhood cancer.

"I called and told her I had a son named Alex and a horse named Alex," said Zacney. "She obviously had a daughter named Alex. Was there something we could do?"

Lemonade stands turned up at racetracks in 2004 and 2005, and the horse's connections visited children's hospitals with hats, pins, T-shirts and media attention. Helped along by a racehorse's success and determination, Alex's Lemonade Stand grew into a powerhouse and recently passed $300 million raised for childhood cancer research. What began as, literally, a front-lawn lemonade stand includes a full-time staff, a board of directors, an advisory council, major research grants and more. Afleet Alex is listed as a celebrity collaborator alongside former Major League Baseball player Alex Gordon, Indycar driver Graham Rahal, model Cindy Crawford, actor Peter Facinelli, celebrity chefs and others.

"You never know how things are going to play out, do you?" Zacney said. "There was never any intent to get as involved as we did or to see if we could make that much of an impact. Sometimes you take a chance, and things play out better than you could have ever hoped. That's the lesson."

That nearly upside-down Preakness was 20 years ago. After the Belmont win, Afleet Alex retired to a stud career at Gainesway Farm. He sired seven Grade 1 winners, led by Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Texas Red, Afleet Express and Materiality, and champions in Canada, Korea and Puerto Rico. He was pensioned from stud duty in 2022.

Buoyed by Afleet Alex's success, Cash is King rolled on – campaigning alone or in partnership the likes of Grade 1 winner Cathryn Sophia, champion Jaywalk, millionaire Morning

JOSEPH DIORIO / HORSEPHOTOS

STUART HAMAN

Turning for home in 2005, Alfeet Alex nearly falls to his knees after a clipping heels with Scrappy T, and gallops out past the finish with a powerhouse Preakness win.

Matcha, Grade 2 winner (and on-his-way stallion) Maximus Mischief and a slew of others.

"It's crazy how time flies," Zacney said. "I saw some highlights the other day from the Arkansas Derby [which Afleet Alex won in his start prior to the Kentucky Derby] and my son is on my shoulders. He's 26 now. Where did that time go?"

Like anyone with a connection to the Preakness, Zacney holds Pimlico Race Course in high regard. Like his horse, the place delivered 20 years ago.

"I've been back a couple of times since then, not with a Preakness horse but for the undercard races," he said. "Pimlico and the Preakness are near and dear to me and always will be."

– Joe Clancy

Pearce, Pimlico go way back

Even stewards start somewhere. Maryland Jockey Club steward Ross Pearce will watch the 2025 Preakness from the rooftop room and adjudicate potential interference or other rules violations in the historic Grade 1 stakes. He'll also think about his introduction to the track.

"I went to work at Pimlico when I was 9 years old," he said in April. "I walked three horses every morning for my uncle and got paid 50 cents a day for walking my three. He gave me a check at the end of the week for $3.50."

Trainer Jose de Murguiondo helped ignite a lifelong interest in racing as his nephew went on to ride steeplechase races, train flat horses for Buckland Farm and other major clients, and find his current post as one of three stewards at Maryland Jockey Club races. Pearce has officiated the Preakness since 2016. Exaggerator's victory came one year after American Pharoah's Triple Crown, but Pearce checked that off his list when Justify prevailed in the foggy Preakness of 2018.

NEENA EWING COLLECTION / MARYLAND HORSE LIBRARY

Sunday Silence (left) and Easy Goer put on a show for a packed house in the 1989 Preakness, a stretch run that remains a fan favorite.

That year aside, Pimlico offers one of the best stewards' views in racing, even if the spot high atop the building will be one of the many pieces of the equation to get much-needed upgrades.

"The stewards' stand angles out of the building a little bit so as stewards, we have a great view, much better than Laurel and a lot of tracks," Pearce said. "It leaks like hell if it rains, but it's a fun place to be. I'll miss that old stewards' stand."

It would be easy to assume that – as a former hotwalker, exercise rider (at age 12) and trainer and current racing official – Pearce might have seen just about every corner of the plant. Then again . . . he's "never been in the infield in my life." Once a rowdy free-for-all of parties, concerts, lacrosse games and even portable-toilet-rooftop footraces, the infield has evolved to include the high-end Turfside Terrace and a semi-permanent VIP tent featuring NFL stars and household names. Pearce missed it all.

He didn't miss walking to the Rexall Drug Store beyond the 6-furlong chute to buy the *Daily Racing Form* and *Morning Telegraph*, or breakfast at the Toddle House in Park Heights or bacon sandwiches and hot chocolates in the old track kitchen. As a local jump jockey, he'd pull the final three or four pounds in the Pimlico hot box before riding at Radnor or Fair Hill, thanks to clerk of scales Tommy Lee.

"It's been home to me," Pearce said. "I miss all of that, of course. At the same time, a new facility is something to look forward to."

– Joe Clancy

Job of a lifetime for Hale

Georganne Hale stood on the turf course as black clouds rolled in and the storm of Preakness 2015 brewed up its Baltimore latte. Rain would soon lash down in sheets, wind would test pretty much everything tied down (or not tied down), lightning would go after the rest, the track's dirt would turn to brown water and American Pharoah would put on a show.

Before all that, Hale had one thought.

"Whoa, do I really want this radio next to me?"

She didn't, but she also didn't have a choice in her role as a Maryland Jockey Club executive. On Preakness Day, that could mean anything and in 2015 she was organizing the chaos of horses and people in the turf-course saddling area when the storm hit.

"I'd never seen rain that hard," said Hale, whose title is senior vice president now. "It was unbelievable."

She won't soon forget that one, or 1999 when Lee Chang Ferrell ran out on the dirt track during the Maryland Breeders' Cup Handicap and tried to punch Artax in the face. Keeping fans off the track wasn't Hale's job, but her one thought was, "Where *is* security?" The punch missed the horse, the horse missed the guy, Yes It's True won, Artax finished fifth, wagers on him were refunded, security got their man, the Preakness gained another legend and everyone lived happily ever after.

Mostly.

Hale was in her office when the building lost power during the 1998 Preakness. Somehow, her phone rang and it was Charlsie Cantey from ABC asking, "What is going on?" Hale didn't lie. "I have no idea," she said. A transformer fire three blocks away knocked out electricity to the clubhouse and part of the grandstand (the infield barely noticed) just before the fifth race. At about the same time, another fire started in an air conditioner in the jockeys' room. There were no injuries, just steamed people on a 96-degree day that set an attendance record of 91,122. "That was an angry crowd; no lights in that big, old building?" said Hale, who locked her office door. Power restored, Real Quiet defeated Victory Gallop in a repeat of their Kentucky Derby finish two weeks earlier.

Less dramatic Preaknesses, from a work standpoint, resonate with Hale.

"Rachel Alexandra was probably my favorite, what a cool filly," she said of the 2009 running. "The reaction to Seize the Grey winning last year for Wayne Lukas gave you chills up your spine."

Hale worked her first Preakness in 1984, as the assistant to horse identifier Mike Hopkins, who became the executive director of the Maryland Racing Commission. Other staff-

JOHN KRAL

STEVEN HEUERTZ

Working his third Preakness as a steward high atop the building, Ross Pearce watched Justify leap a spot on the track on the way to a foggy win and the Triple Crown in 2018. Georganne Hale, who worked her first Preakness in 1984, fretted the details during a thunderstorm as Triple Crown winner American Pharoah rolled to victory in 2015.

ers at the track, then owned by the Cohen family, that day included Chick Lang, Coley Blind, E.T. McLean and Larry Abbundi.

Before that, Hale worked with horses in the mornings, for the likes of Katy Voss, Ann Merryman and Mikey Smithwick. Hale remembers the track buying up the houses between Northern Parkway and Rogers Avenue to make room for parking. She remembers all the barns – Dickie Small parallel to the horse path, Richard Dutrow, Kenny Field, Voss and others perpendicular – in what is the parking lot between the grandstand and Rogers Avenue.

In barns, executive suites and everything in between, big changes to Pimlico have been discussed for decades. They sound like they're finally coming this time, and Hale knows it. She's going to miss the place.

"We call her the old girl and those of us who love the old girl love the old girl," Hale said. "We love Pimlico and it's going to be a little upsetting when they come with the first bulldozer. I certainly will miss Pimlico, but it's kind of exciting when you're seeing plans for the new version."

– Joe Clancy

Gathagan enjoys Preakness memories

Mike Gathagan remembers each and every one.

The first came as a senior at South Carroll High. His lacrosse team had just lost the state semifinals the night before. Gathagan and his buddies watched the most local Preakness winner of all, Deputed Testamony, shock the world in the Pimlico mud in 1983.

Four years later, working for WMAR-TV, Gathagan covered Alysheba and a year after that, Ronnie Lamarque, Risen Star's owner, sang on air during the 6 o'clock live show from the rooftop at Old Hilltop.

In 2001, Gathagan's first Preakness as communications director for the Maryland Jockey Club, he had an office a few feet from where Lamarque crooned his lines.

"I remember them all..." Gathagan said in April.

Derby favorite Point Given, trained by Bob Baffert, got revenge on the Derby winner Monarchos, trained by John Ward in 2001. "Point Given with Monarchos coming in," Gathagan said. "Mr. Ward was such a great guy to deal with."

A year later, Derby winner War Emblem staved off local longshot Magic Weisner.

"My favorite. Dave Rodman's call of Magic closing on War Emblem. Nancy Alberts wandering around the infield looking to congratulate Bob Baffert."

In 2003, Barclay Tagg returned to his Maryland roots, bedding down Funny Cide in Mary Eppler's barn on the backside instead of the Derby winner's stall in the stakes barn.

"I called Barclay when Funny Cide shipped in and he said, 'How'd you know where I was going?' We had the press conference in the Pimlico press box, we took the elevator, it was working that day, and he said, 'I don't really want to be here very long. I'll give you a look.' I said, 'I'll stop it.' He talked for 20 minutes. He wasn't as bad as everyone made him out to be, he always picked up the phone."

And then the undefeated Smarty Jones, the equine Rocky Balboa, rolled into Pimlico in 2004.

"That was crazy. That one was by far the wildest Preakness. I credentialed over 1,700 media members that year. All of Philadelphia. Steven A. Smith was a late add and I put him in the auxiliary press box. Frank Carulli says to this day, that's his favorite moment in the 11½ years he worked with me. Again, we took care of the people who covered the industry."

A year later, Afleet Alex, was down but not out at the head of the stretch.

"What Alex and Jeremy Rose did that day, still one of the great athletic things I've ever seen from both man or beast."

And 2006, the one we'd all like to forget.

"What happened with Barbaro, the single worst day . . ."

A year later, Curlin denied Derby winner Street Sense with Hard Spun and Mid-Atlantic stalwart Mario Pino third.

"I'm just moving, I pulled out a box and I still have a photo of the photo finish of that race. To think about it, that was probably the best race. And to get Mario a lot of national attention, that was a great thing, that was rewarding. To have Mario ride in the biggest race of our state . . ."

Local hero Kent Desormeaux returned the next year with undefeated Derby winner Big Brown.

"That was fun. Kent was really good to deal with, we brought him up to the press box on Black-Eyed Susan Day and had an impromptu presser with him."

Rachel Alexandra joined the fray the following year.

"Craziness in '09. The whole drama about someone was going to put some horse in so Rachel couldn't get in, that was some drama early in the week. That was the first year Tom Chuckas tried to corral the infield fest. That was a weird week with no one showing up in the infield. Wayne Lukas stopped by my office and said it was tragic. I said, 'I disagree Mr. Lukas, someone was going to die in that infield.' That was a brave move and the best move."

Lookin At Lucky and Shackleford, good horses and good races, but they run together.

Then 2012 Derby winner I'll Have Another and trainer Doug O'Neill roared into town.

"In dealing with the buildup, that was my favorite Preakness. Doug came in the day after the Derby, which was unheard of, we were able to get them to do a lot of things. Throw out the first pitch at the Orioles' game, went up to minicamp of the Ravens. His crew embraced Baltimore. That was fun."

In 2013, Lukas rejuvenated with Will Take Charge and Oxbow.

"I don't know when I started staying in a hotel Preakness Week, I was working until 2 in the morning and getting back in at 5 in the morning, just harassing my house, so I'm staying at Cross Keys. It's Preakness morning and Lukas and I are in the elevator, and he tells me he really thinks Will Take Charge has a big race in him. Then he wins it with Oxbow. 'OK, even these guys might not know who's ready to fire on that particular day.' "

And the last one, California upstart California Chrome keeping the dream alive in 2014.

"It was another really, really good one. That team was good to deal with and it was fun to see that horse win for fun and have a chance at the Triple Crown."

And then Gathagan left, forced out by corporate.

"There were, what, six or seven opportunities at a Triple Crown? Then I leave, and bam, there's the first one," Gathagan said. "It all comes back to the people. Fourteen Derby winners came to Baltimore. It was a highlight of my career to be a small part of one of America's great sporting events. I wish I was still there."

Gathagan will be back this year as a guest of Karin and Joe De Francis.

"As they said, this will be Preakness 150 and the last one at the Pimlico that we knew. Where we worked. When you made that turn off Northern Parkway onto Winner Avenue and then made the left into the parking lot . . . almost every great horse who ran in North America ran at Pimlico. I had the best office in sports, the sixteenth pole at Pimlico Race Course. I loved Pimlico."

– Sean Clancy

Some of Mike Gathagan's favorites (clockwise from top left): Maryland-based Magic Weisner pushed War Emblem home in 2002; Funny Cide romped in 2003; California Chrome shined while being saddled on the turf course in 2014; Oxbow gave D. Wayne Lukas and Gary Stevens a win in 2013; Doug O'Neil embraced it all with I'll Have Another in 2012; Smarty Jones starred for Philadelphia in 2004.

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

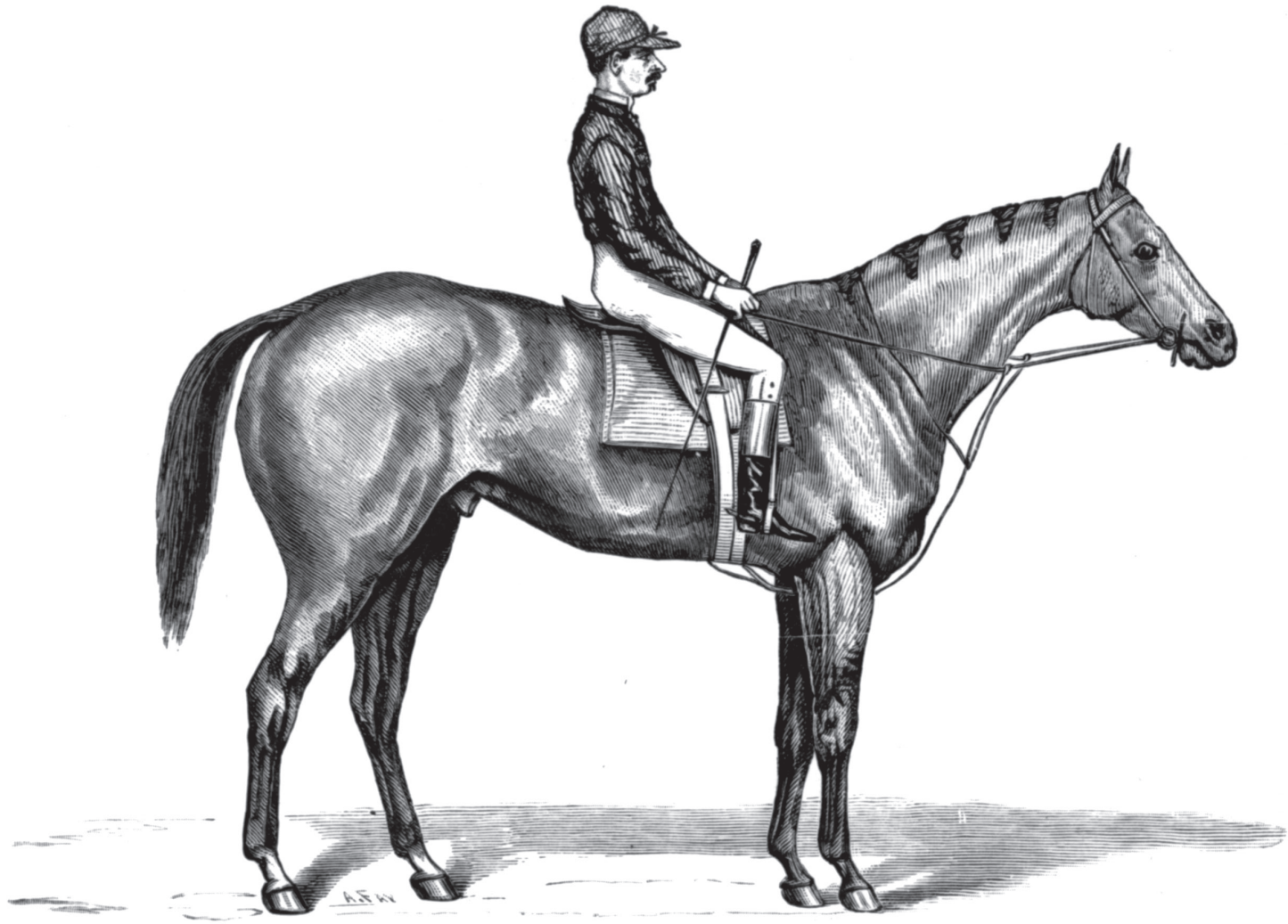
STUART HAMAN

STUART HAMAN

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS



PREAKNESS.

Excellence, Tragedy, Mystery

HISTORIC TALE OF PREAKNESS THE HORSE GOES IN MANY DIRECTIONS

By Vinnie Perrone

William Douglas-Hamilton fixed his chesterfield collar to a gruff March wind, sidled through a restive crowd and approached a line of bookmakers before the stands at Aintree. He knew well the horse he sought to back in the 1867 Grand National near Liverpool, knew better the bookmakers hungry for his action. Bookies instinctively hunted the rich and reckless punter and took aim as the 12th Duke of Hamilton approached.

A nobleman by title only, young Hamilton astounded Britons as a brawling, boozing, free-wheeling playboy keen to scandal. In barely four years, he'd all but squandered the enormous fortune he'd inherited at 18. Now he stood before the bookies' chalkboards a fading lord, 35½ furlongs and 30 fences from financial ruin.

He cloaked desperation with swagger as well-wishers engaged him. Among 23 Grand National entries, Hamilton's seasoned steeplechaser, Cortolvin, loomed a sturdy prospect for his second the year before. The Duke accepted 16-1 odds, wagered £1,000 – today's equivalent of $185,000, akin to the winning purse – and left his fate to Cortolvin and 22-year-old jockey Johnny Page.

The flag fell at 3:23 p.m. Tumbling clouds met brilliant sunshine, making Aintree's triangular field a kaleidoscope of bright and sullen greens and browns. Hamilton found his gray and magenta colors near the lead, the foreword to a long-drawn chapter depicting tall hedges, open ditches, brooks, slopes and water jumps. (A stone wall, the course's signature prop from its 1836 unveiling, had become a less dastardly brush hurdle.)

Deemed a test of courage, agility and stamina for horse and rider, the Grand National defined a crucible too for the Duke of Hamilton. Across two circuits and nearly 4½ punishing miles under handicap conditions, Cortolvin carried 11 stone 13 pounds (167 pounds) and, with Hamilton's added burden, a royal legacy that had outlived famine, wars and tumult through the centuries.

The labored minutes married thrill and mishap. Horses leapt, splashed, balked and tumbled, Cortolvin among the leaders and free of hardship. Well through the first circuit, front-running King Arthur refused a fence, and Cortolvin took over at Becher's Brook. Rhythmic and responsive, the bangtail bay led most of the second lap and into the fenceless homestretch, more than 10 minutes in, when the mare Fan came to call. Cortolvin soon ended the engagement and left her to win by 5 lengths, as one British scribe wrote, "in a canter."

Raucous celebration aside, Cortolvin's performance begat two notable developments. It restored the wealth and dignity, for a time anyway, of the 12th Duke of Hamilton. And it ensured an early death for a horse named Preakness.

~~~~~

They dined on beefsteak and mutton chops, broiled salt mackerel and sugar-cured herring, and spoke of a delicacy yet untasted. Lawyer and textile magnate Milton Sanford had invited prominent Eastern sportsmen to a Saturday dinner at the Union Hall Hotel in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., to discuss plans for a novel horserace. By the time waitstaff had served brandies and lit cigars that August evening, 1868, much of the menu had been conceived.

Sanford brought a knack for commoditizing ideas. The Thoroughbred horseman owned wool and cotton mills and got rich making blankets for the Union army during the Civil War ended three years earlier. Sanford meant to broaden horse racing's refashioned tapestry and found his guests eager to provide the thread.

As talk turned to yearlings, bravado peppered the air and steered the plan. The distinguished horsemen agreed to back their boasts by creating a winner-take-all sweepstakes two years hence, $1,000 entry, $500 forfeit, a "dash" of 2 miles for 3-year-old colts and fillies. They would call it the Dinner Party Stakes.

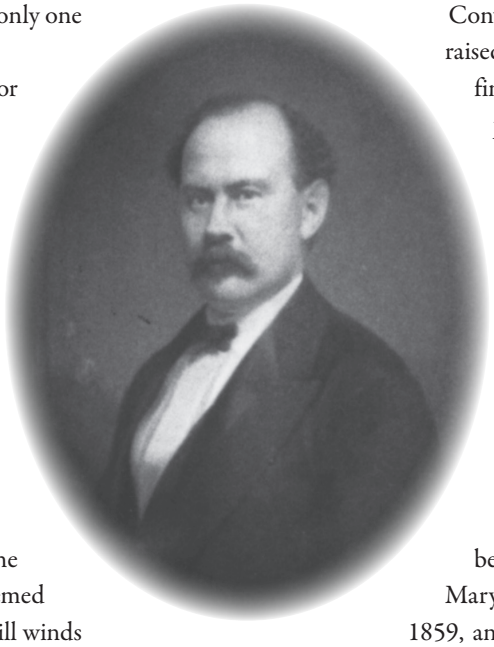
Representatives of Jerome Park, the New York City track opened a year earlier, offered an additional $5,000 to host it, an appealing prospect until Oden Bowie took the floor. Bowie drew acclaim as Maryland governor, Mexican War army lieutenant, railroad builder, farmer, horseman and, as diners discovered, persuasive salesman.

With a receding hairline, small and deep-set eyes and a runaway mustache, Bowie lacked a thespian's face but exuded his stage presence. Maryland had originated racing in the colonies 125 years earlier, he proffered, held the land's first sanctioned races in Annapolis in 1745 and counted among its enthusiastic patrons one George Washington. The state's sophisticated racing audience, he assured, would guarantee a large and loud reception.
~~~~~

Pimlico was built in 1870 by Maryland Gov. Oden Bowie to host the Dinner Party Stakes, won by Preakness.

The motion carried, leaving Bowie only one need. A racetrack.

A pristine new venue, the governor had promised, would provide racegoers an urgent curiosity to match the exhilarating feature and supporting races. Privately, he thought it would rededicate Maryland as a plum of the American turf whose once-lavish courses had turned weedy bygones, added casualties of the Civil War.



The sale made, Bowie and a team scouted the countryside and chose a 70-acre tableland overlooking Jones Falls, a northwest Baltimore tract the state fair had used. Critics who deemed the high plateau a waiting victim of chill winds and foul weather for an October race meeting proved nearly prescient.

Some 20 years earlier on those very heights, a certain Englishman had plowed a sketchy oval into good soil, declared it a racetrack and christened it Pimlico after his hometown London neighborhood. Bowie's track-to-be, not far from the crude original, thus had a name but little backing, financial or otherwise.

Convincing and resourceful, the governor raised $55,000 in private contributions and finessed another $60,000 in state and city pledges to fund his cause. Architect John Elliott's ensuing lavender-and-white grandstand spanned 280 feet, seated nearly 4,000 and featured a stately lower ballroom.

Rain drenched the virgin ground for days and turned the dirt track to pudding, but Pimlico's debut met welcome sunshine, warm breezes and, as Bowie had foretold, a lively turnout.

The four-day race meeting that began Oct. 25, 1870, a Tuesday, stoked Maryland's first sanctioned races since 1859, and thirsty racegoers traveled by buggy, hansom and cabriolet, train and omnibus to sample the revival. The *Baltimore Sun* reported that patrons arrived en masse at 10:30 a.m. for the 1 p.m. races and estimated a crowd beyond 12,000. The skeptics turned mum.

"Baltimore had not seen such a gay throng since the days before the Civil War," Joseph J. Challmes wrote in his 1975 book *The Preakness: A History*. Ladies toting wicker baskets served picnic lunches in the grandstand, Challmes wrote.

He'd pronounced himself a handicap horse of national rank, and Pimlico effectively laid claim to his growing fame and popularity. In 1873, the year Preakness turned 6, the track established a 1½-mile springtime stakes for 3-year-olds in his name.

Others contented with Pimlico's offerings: "sandwiches, cucumber pickles, peppermint water and water flavored with wintergreen."

Third on a four-race showcase, the $18,500 Dinner Party Stakes became the second-richest Thoroughbred race in United States history; Nashville's Bailie Peyton Stakes had offered a spectacular $35,000 in 1843 (about $1.5 million today).

Foster, the copper-toned Dinner Party favorite, and Sanford's Preakness, both by the extraordinary Lexington, stood the only colts in a field of seven. Sanford relished colts sired by Lexington who, nearly blind and missing a shoe, had set a 4-mile world record at Metairie Race Course near New Orleans. A son of Boston, Lexington fashioned so great a legacy as racehorse and 16-time leading stallion that the Smithsonian Institution would display his skeleton (now at the International Museum of the Horse in Kentucky).

For love of Lexington, Sanford plucked the eighth foal from the British-bred *Yorkshire mare Bay Leaf at a yearling auction of Robert Alexander's famed Woodburn stud in Kentucky. The National Racing Museum and Hall of Fame and other sources assert that Sanford paid $2,000 for Preakness, but the 1877 anthology *Famous American Horses* put the purchase at $4,100. The discrepancy reveals certain recordkeeping inconsistencies of the day and helps inform the remarkably sketchy reportage surrounding the eventual demise of Preakness.

Sanford had left his native Massachusetts for Wayne Township in northern New Jersey, established a secluded horse farm behind dense timberland and named it Preakness, the Native American term for quail woods. He'd give his Lexington yearling the same name.

Preakness thus arrived at Pimlico an unraced mystery, dark brown, big and burly. His appearance for the third race drew snickers, ridicule and, in bookmakers' ledgers or private wagers, scant backing. How sporting, folks told Sanford, that he should try the mighty Foster with a cart horse. Others spoke less subtly, calling Preakness "half-trained," "big as a bull," "fat as an ox." Sanford offered little in the way of counterpoint, fretting that summer lameness might have undermined the colt's fitness. He wagered nothing.

The mount belonged to Billy Hayward, a skilled horseman who'd accepted Sanford's offer to leave England to train and ride Preakness and stablemates. Consistent with the times, an African-American rode every other Dinner Party runner.

The initial standing start judged poor, the horses regained line and broke at a drumbeat, jockeys riding straight-legged in English style. Horses sloughed audibly through the muck toward the clubhouse turn, Gov. Bowie's My Maryland leading most of the first lap before Preakness took over. When Finesse, then Ecliptic, passed the short-lived leader, doubts about Preakness' bloom and stamina turned audible.

Preakness managing the kick-back, Hayward contented to track the dueling front-runners the second time through the far turn. There, jockey's hope fused runner's means: Preakness angled out for a homestretch rally and, with sudden brio, managed a mostly bewildering 2-length score.

Keeping with tradition, Hayward directed Preakness back to the frontstretch and, still in the irons, reached toward a finish pole to untether the winner's get, a silk purse dense with gold coins.

Pimlico would prove a launching pad. Trained by Charles Littlefield his 4-year-old season, Preakness resumed racing under Hayward in the spring of 1871 and dominated handicap stars Glenelg and Helmbold in the 2¼mile Westchester Cup. That fall, he took another Jerome Park headliner, the Maturity, and finished the season with a heralded return to Baltimore in a Pimlico Stakes walkover that drew wild cheers nonetheless.

He'd pronounced himself a handicap horse of national rank, and Pimlico effectively laid claim to his growing fame and popularity. In 1873, the year Preakness turned 6, the track established a 1½-mile springtime stakes for 3-year-olds in his name.

Milton Sanford

The *Baltimore Sun* distilled Survivor's victory in that first Preakness Stakes as one star in a constellation. "Those who had seen Pimlico only in the red and yellow tints of autumn, or remembered its clinging mud and biting winds were surprised to see it in the bright verdure of May," the story read. "Spring zephyrs and a clear atmosphere and bright warm sunshine and bodily comfort were things never before associated with its elevated and exposed situation. The general verdict was therefore more than favorable."

Preakness the racehorse substantiated the homage by winning major stakes the next three seasons, often under exacting weight. At age 8 in 1875, Preakness carried 131 pounds to a Baltimore Cup victory and finished third in the Fordham Handicap, conceding the winner 27 pounds.

Summer enlivened him even more. He shadowed the celebrated Springbok through the Saratoga Cup in July, relentlessly dogging the race favorite and 1873 Belmont winner across 2¼ miles to a first-place dead heat in track-record time that endured 23 years.

In the book *Racing in America, 1866-1921*, commissioned by The Jockey Club, W.S. Vosburgh deemed the Saratoga Cup field "perhaps the highest in point of quality that ever started for that historic event." In *The American Thoroughbred*, author Charles E. Trevathan called it "a smashing good contest."

Preakness left Saratoga with a record of 39-18-12-2, racegoers having seen the best of him that summer of '75. Then they saw him no more.

A month after the Saratoga Cup, *The Daily Graphic*, a New York tabloid featuring the nation's first newspaper illustrations, reported that the 62-year-old Sanford intended to race less and breed more. By November, Preakness and seven stablemates had arrived in England.

Preakness carried Sanford's blue silks and flashes of brilliance through a few British races in 1876. *The Daily News* of London reported that his third in the Goodwood Cup frightened off all challengers for the Brighton Cup, effectuating a walkover. *The Leicester Mercury* hailed him "a rare glutton for distance."

An ocean from home, Preakness maintained his robust appearance at age 9. One turf chronicler wrote: "He is a dark bay in color, stands fully sixteen hands in height, with capital back and loins, strong, powerful quarters, clean head, well set on a thick, muscular neck, and legs like iron and clean as a foal's."

Before the year ended, Sanford had sold Preakness to a ruddy, spirited, 31-year-old British nobleman formally known as the 12th Duke of Hamilton. A rewarding afternoon involving the steeplechaser Cortolvin nearly a decade earlier at Aintree had made the purchase possible.

Four years wed to Lady Marie Montagu, daughter of the Seventh Duke of Manchester, Hamilton maintained regard as rapscallion. *Vanity Fair*, a society page that typically dignified celebrity weddings of the day, wrote that the Duke "paints a picture of idleness and dissipation. . . Public affairs . . . appear to be the special object of his aversion . . . learning nothing, hunting five days a week . . . his betting book is usually a sorry sight on settling day."

Hamilton had commissioned two large passenger steamers and two luxury yachts by way of Cortolvin's 1867 Grand National score, the very season of Preakness' birth, and refurbished stables at the smaller of his estates (nearly 5,000 acres), Easton Park in Suffolk. There Preakness took residence.

William Alexander Louis Stephen Douglas-Hamilton fancied Preakness a stallion whose classic American bloodlines would offer the British Thoroughbred bone and substance. Fiddler, a first-crop colt born 1878, won Hamilton three stakes and regard as the best offspring from Preakness' five years at stud.

Outside moderate breeding engagements, Preakness won first prize at horse show competitions in London, Essex and Bristol, feats at times overshadowed by his owner's capers. On Sept. 25, 1879, the *Truth*, an upstart British publication, contained this item:

"The Duke must have been the hero of a good many escapades of the Prince Hal kind. At a restaurant in Paris he was so unfortunate as to be compelled to knock a policeman down, whereupon brother guardians of the peace were under the painful necessity of taking his Grace and a friend to the lockup. I believe they were unaware of his rank and position, and looked more ashamed than the Duke when they learned their mistake. The thing got into the papers, and . . . Felix Whitehurst, Esq., was instructed to state that there was no truth whatever in the report."

At 34, Willam Douglas-Hamilton still fretted little over unflattering notices. Born in Scotland, 1845, he'd attended boarding school at Eton, west of London. He was a senior when his father tumbled a flight of stairs at a Paris restaurant and died of a brain injury a week later. As first-born son, William received wealth and title.

Like father and grandfather, he attended the University of Oxford's Christ Church College. Unlike them, he earned expulsion for unruly behavior and a budding reputation as an ennobled ruffian. In an exhaustive volume on British aristocracy titled *The Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain and the United Kingdom*, *Extant, Extinct or Dormant*, author and genealogist G.E. Cokayne wrote of Hamilton, "At [Christ Church], he went in for boxing, as he went in later for horse-racing, yachting and other amusements . . . He was full bodied, of a rudely ruddy complexion, had a powerful neck, and seemed strong enough to fell an ox with his fist. "

And wild enough to kill his horse with a gun? The Thoroughbred-racing world has long accepted that the hot-headed Hamilton shot Preakness dead following an altercation. What exactly happened? Had Preakness truly turned roguish under Hamilton's care? Did the Duke pull the trigger or order it done? Where did this take place, and when? Extensive research involving prominent library archivists left these questions unanswered.

~~~~~

The industrial revolution in Great Britain and the U.S. effected a 19th-century communications boom with the creation of the electric telegraph, steam-powered printing press and machine-made paper. Newspapers produced with newfound speed both informed and entertained

William Douglas-Hamilton

growing readerships. But the beat reporter – one covering a specific subject or entity – hadn't been established in the U.K. when Preakness arrived there. In sum, newspapers largely relied on wire dispatches and one another for content.

An archival search of scores of newspapers throughout Great Britain and America's 38 states failed to produce a single descriptive, contemporaneous account of the events surrounding Preakness' end. However it happened, he apparently died at 14 in 1881, probably early autumn. The primary-source evidence:

Chicago Daily Tribune, June 19, 1881: "Preakness is rapidly winning his way in England as a successful sire."

On October 8, the *Graphic* of London also cited Preakness in the present tense.

Newspapers of the day hadn't introduced the banner headline; they often featured a single, one-column headline for an entire page of copy. The death of Preakness merited not even that: The first observed report appeared buried in the pink pages of a weekly broadsheet. A single sentence innocuously embedded in a page-seven racing column, Saturday, October 15, 1881, in *Bell's Life in London and Sporting Chronicle*, read: "... Preakness, who I should have fancied to stud success in this country if his temper had been sweeter, but I hear has been lately destroyed."
~~~~~

"The Duke of Hamilton succeeded to the title . . . and at once proceeded to dissipate one of the most enormous fortunes that ever fell into the hands of a minor."

– From a Washington Post article in 1882

Britain's *Sheffield Independent* briefly printed the news two days later.

Two New York publications reported it Nov. 5 as essay fodder. *Spirit of the Times* wrote: "Preakness, it is said, was destroyed because of his temper, which became so violent as to render him unmanageable. We think the action hasty. He was just the horse whose blood might have done much to improve the bone and muscle which much of the English stock are wanting, owing to their being bred on small and overcrowded public farms . . ."

The Turf, Field and Farm wrote, "The stallion must have been badly handled by the servants of his last owner in order to develop an ugly temper. It is easy to sour the disposition of a spirited horse."

The [Louisville] *Courier-Journal* of November 14 further muddied the assailant's identity: "It was the savageness of Preakness that caused the Duke of Hamilton to have him shot."

Major newspapers of the day failed to report the incident in timely fashion, nor did they investigate it later. Nor did these accounts support the accepted notion that the death of Preakness directly strengthened England's animal cruelty laws.

In light of the times, the British press might have found Preakness' death less consequential given his regard as a largely American phenomenon; at that point, the Pimlico race in his name had managed only nine runnings. Maybe editors deemed the incident less newsworthy as another tired example of Hamilton's excitable ways. Maybe the Duke conspired with farmhands or the press to quiet or delay its reporting.

After *Daily Racing Form* columnist Charles Hatton conceived the notion of a Triple Crown in the 1930s and the Preakness Stakes grew as an American classic, interest in Preakness the horse was revived and the brief tale of his abrupt end recited. On the cusp of the 150th running (financial troubles scotched the race from 1891 through 1893), the particulars surrounding the death of Preakness remained unsubstantiated.

In spring 1882, creditors' squeeze forced the Duke to liquidate treasures from Hamilton Palace, the family castle in southern Scotland. (Hamilton rarely lodged there, and not at all post-divestiture.) According to *The New York Times*, the dispersal included "his magnificent library and soon thereafter his paintings by Reubens, Titian and Albrecht Durer, statues and furniture."

The 17-day public auction at Christie's in London raised nearly £400,000, almost $80 million today, but only lowered Hamilton's flagging public image. "The Duke of Hamilton succeeded to the title . . . and at once proceeded to dissipate one of the most enormous fortunes that ever fell into the hands of a minor," *The Washington Post* wrote in 1882. "His experience did not appear to teach this tilted gambler that the mode of life he so persistently clings to can only end in debt and dishonor."

His only child, Lady Mary Louise Douglas-Hamilton, turned 11 the year the Duke became seriously ill. Diagnosed with dropsy (fluid retention), gout and kidney disease in 1895, he was advised to travel for his health. He boarded one of his yachts, The Thistle, and sailed the Mediterranean to North Africa. He died in Algiers on May 16, 1895, at age 50.

In its obituary two days later, *The Times* of London made no reference to Preakness.

Because Hamilton's only brother had died in 1886 and the Duke had no male heirs, his peerage descended to a fourth cousin, Alfred Douglas Douglas-Hamilton. The 13th Duke of Hamilton's inheritance included Hamilton Palace, a hunting lodge on a Scottish moor and a debt of £1 million. ■

Work. Horse.

Your favorite barn buddy is here.

A new John Deere Gator™ Utility Vehicle is the answer to all barn chores. From cleaning stalls and feeding the horses, to a comfortable seat for the trainer who does-the-most.

We have an extensive line-up of 2-, 3-, and 4-passenger work horses specifically designed for you.

To learn more about how you can save up to 28% on new John Deere equipment, call 1-866-678-4289 or visit JohnDeere.com/Equine today!

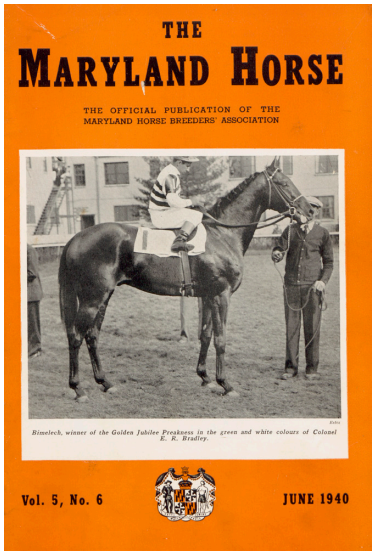
SCAN ME

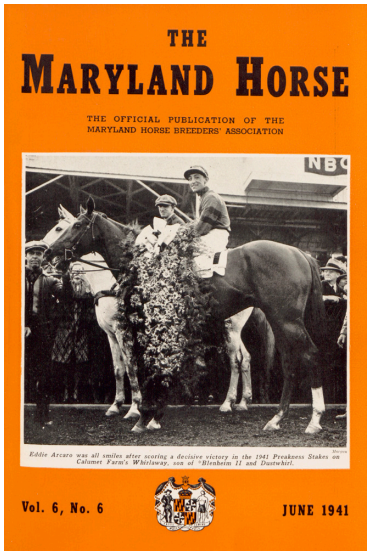
NTRA

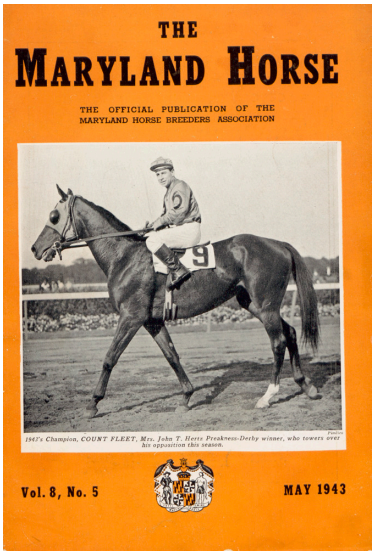
EQUINE DISCOUNTS

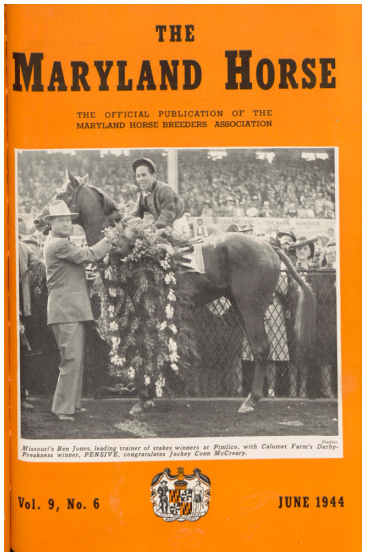
Preakness history through the covers

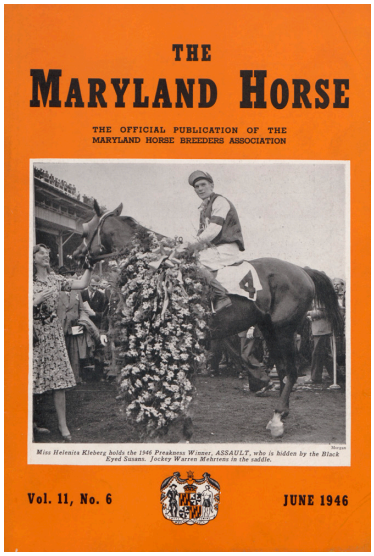
A few Preakness Stakes winners didn't make the cover of the *Maryland Horse* or *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred* magazines, which date to 1936. Polynesian won in 1945, but Gallorette made the cover for her Pimlico Oaks win. Other notables include Native Dancer in 1953 (although he had plenty of covers), Secretariat in 1973, Master Derby (winner of the 100th running) in 1975, Gate Dancer in 1984 (his jockey Angel Cordero was the cover), Prairie Bayou in 1993 (Virginian Paul Mellon made the cover for Sea Hero's Kentucky Derby win). There were others. . . 1936-39, 1942, 1950, 1960-63, 1965-66, 1968-70 (the 1970 winner made the cover in July 2020), 1979-81. Check back in July. ■


THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION
Bimelech, winner of the Golden Jubilee Preakness in the green and white colours of Colonel E. R. Bradley.
Vol. 5, No. 6
JUNE 1940

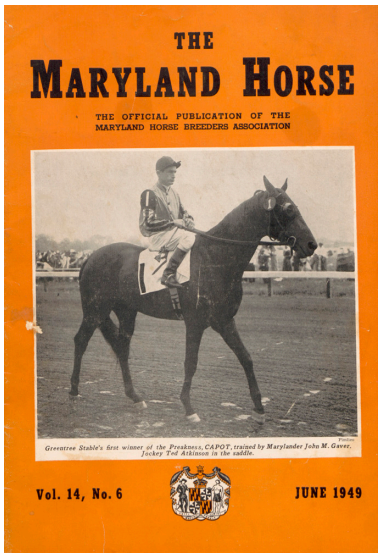

THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION
NBC
Eddie Arcaro was all smiles after scoring a decisive victory in the 1941 Preakness Stakes on Calumet Farm's Whirlaway, son of *Hyperion II and Dustwhirl.
Vol. 6, No. 6
JUNE 1941


THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
1943's Champion, COUNT FLEET, Mrs. John T. Hertz Preakness-Derby winner, who towers over his opposition this season.
Vol. 8, No. 5
MAY 1943

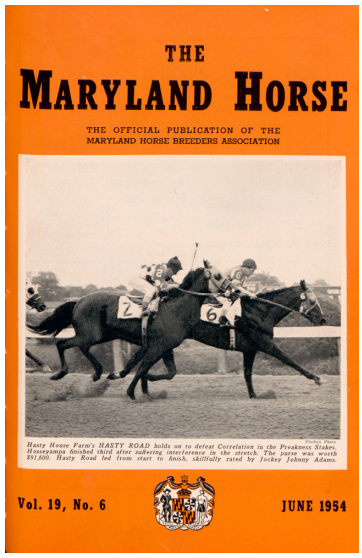

THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Missouri's Ben Jones, leading trainer of stakes winners at Pimlico, with Calumet Farm's Derby-Preakness winner, PENSIVE, congratulates Jockey Conn McCreary.
Vol. 9, No. 6
JUNE 1944

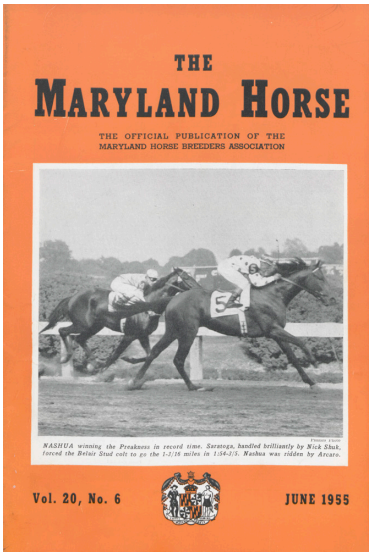

THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Miss Helenita Kleberg holds the 1946 Preakness Winner, ASSAULT, who is hidden by the Black Eyed Susans. Jockey Warren Mehrtens in the saddle.
Vol. 11, No. 6
JUNE 1946

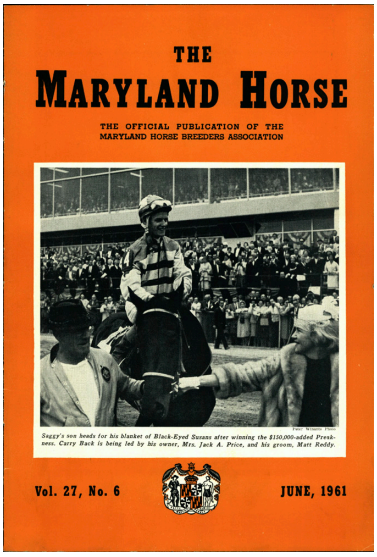
THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Calumet Farm's brilliant colt CITATION, and Jockey Eddie Arcaro, in the winner's circle after the Preakness.
Vol. 13, No. 6
JUNE 1948

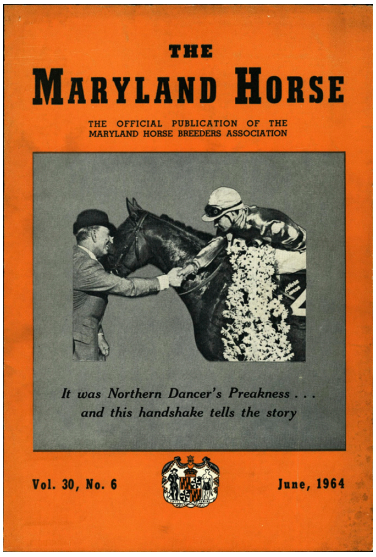

THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Greentree Stable's first winner of the Preakness, CAPOT, trained by Marylander John M. Gaver, Jockey Ted Atkinson in the saddle.
Vol. 14, No. 6
JUNE 1949

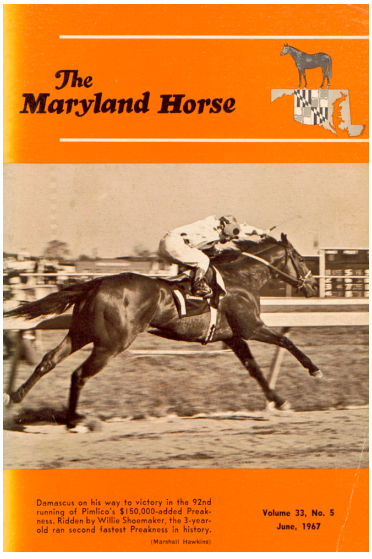
THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Brookmeade Stable's BOLD, winner of the 1951 Preakness Stakes.
Vol. 16, No. 6
JUNE 1951

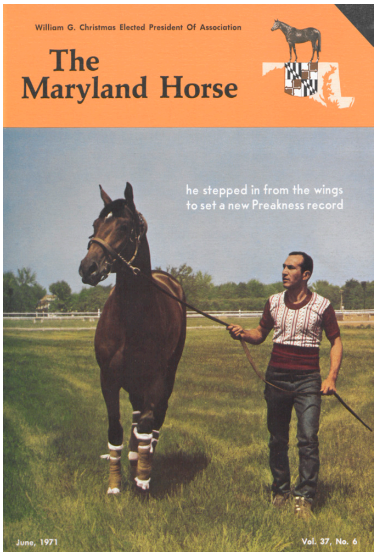

THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Hasty House Farm's HASTY ROAD holds on to defeat Correlation in the Preakness Stakes. Hoosepampa finished third after suffering interference in the stretch. The purse was worth $91,600. Hasty Road led from start to finish, skillfully rated by Jockey Johnny Adams.
Vol. 19, No. 6
JUNE 1954

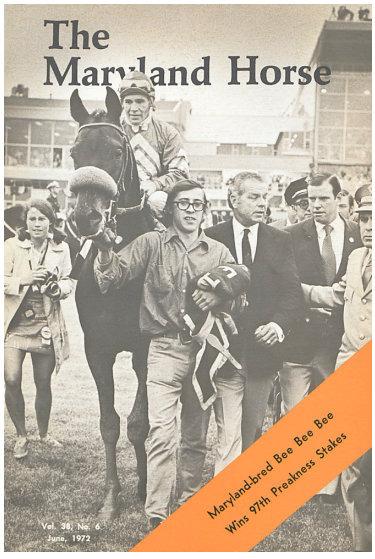

THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
NASHUA winning the Preakness in record time. Saratoga, handled brilliantly by Nick Shuk, forced the British Stud colt to go the 1-3/16 miles in 1:54-1/5. Nashua was ridden by Arcaro.
Vol. 20, No. 6
JUNE 1955

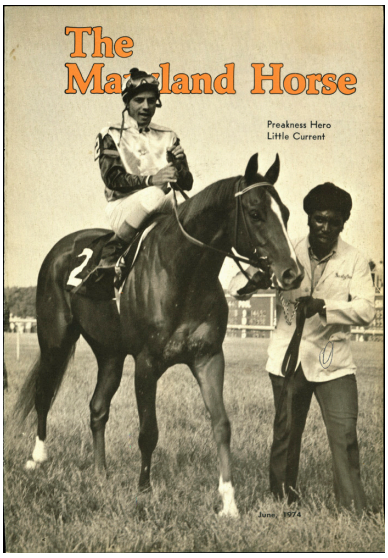

THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Saggy's son heads for his blanket of Black-Eyed Susans after winning the $150,000-added Preakness. Curry Back is being led by his owner, Mrs. Jack A. Price, and his groom, Matt Reddy.
Vol. 27, No. 6
JUNE, 1961

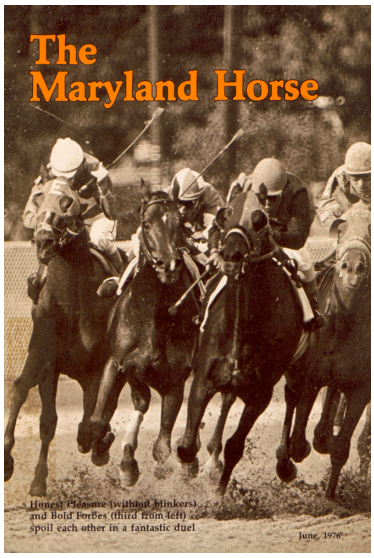

THE
MARYLAND HORSE
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
MARYLAND HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
It was Northern Dancer's Preakness . . .
and this handshake tells the story
Vol. 30, No. 6
June, 1964

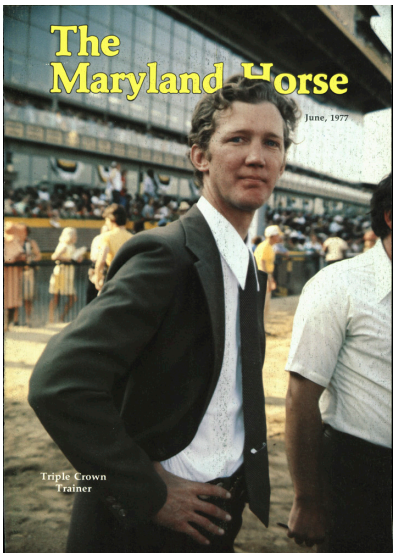

The
Maryland Horse
Damascus on his way to victory in the 92nd running of Pimlico's $150,000-added Preakness. Ridden by Willie Shoemaker, the 3-year-old ran second fastest Preakness in history.
(Marshall Hawkins)
Volume 33, No. 5
June, 1967

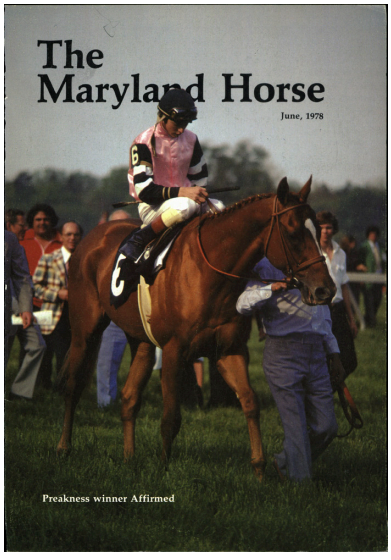

William G. Christmas Elected President Of Association
The
Maryland Horse
he stepped in from the wings
to set a new Preakness record
June, 1971
Vol. 37, No. 6

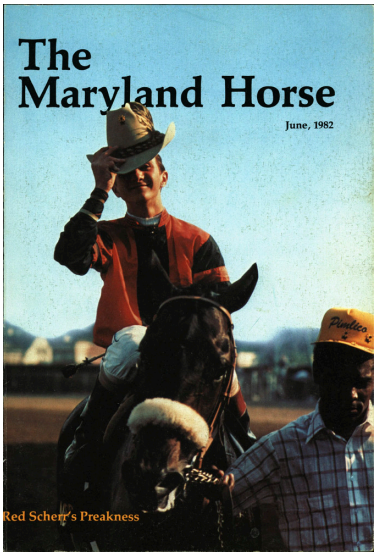

The
Maryland Horse
Maryland-bred Bee Bee Bee
Wins 97th Preakness Stakes
Vol. 38, No. 6
June, 1972


The
Maryland Horse
Preakness Hero
Little Current
June, 1974

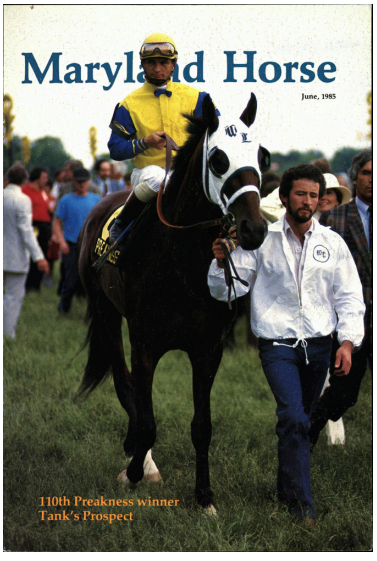

The
Maryland Horse
Honest Pleasure (without blinkers)
and Bold Forbes (third from left)
spoil each other in a fantastic duel
June, 1976

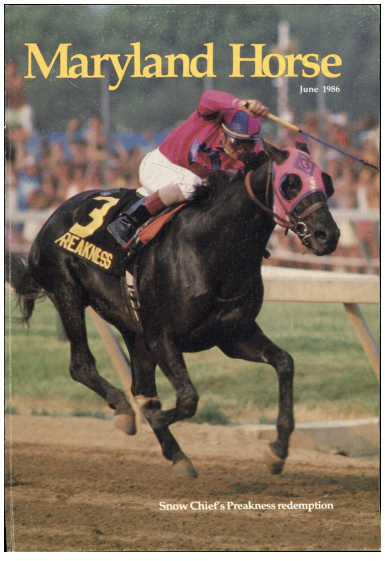

The
Maryland Horse
June, 1977
Triple Crown
Trainer


The
Maryland Horse
June, 1978
Preakness winner Affirmed

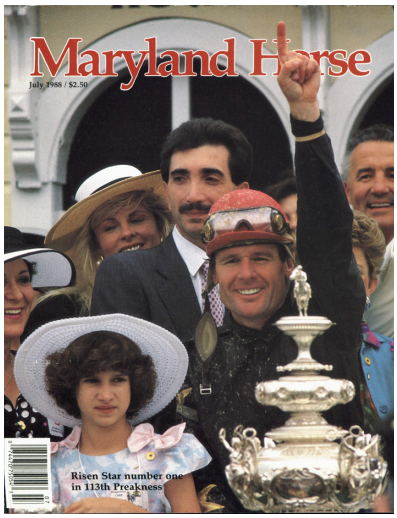

The
Maryland Horse
June, 1982
Red Scherr's Preakness

Maryland Horse
June, 1983
The 108th Preakness

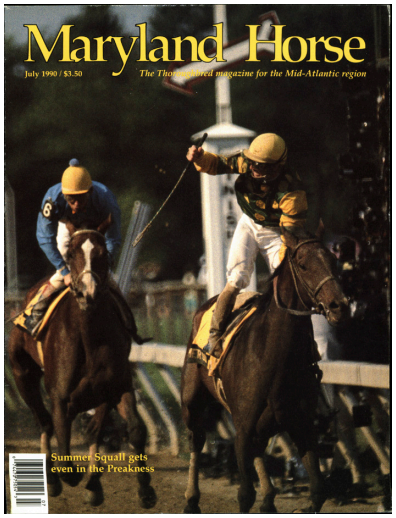

Maryland Horse
June, 1985
110th Preakness winner
Tank's Prospect

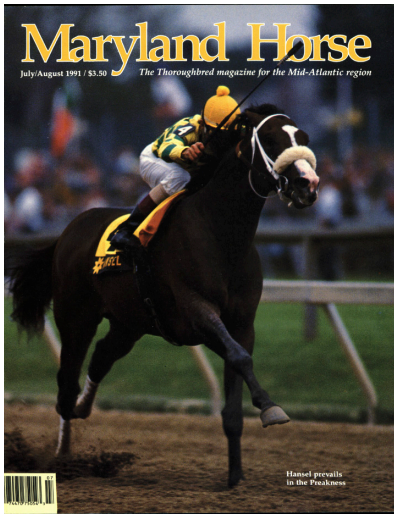

Maryland Horse
June 1986
Snow Chief's Preakness redemption

Maryland Horse
July 1987 / $2.50
Derby-Preakness winner Alysheba

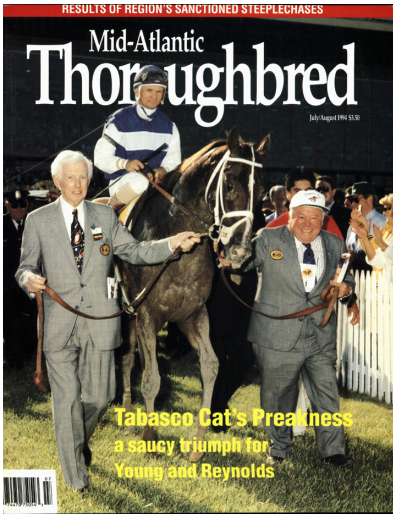

Maryland Horse
July 1988 / $2.50
Risen Star number one in 113th Preakness

Maryland Horse
July 1989 / $2.50
Preakness winner Sunday Silence

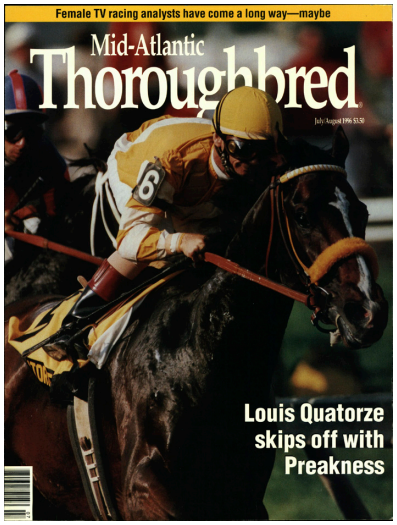

Maryland Horse
July 1990 / $3.50
The Thoroughbred magazine for the Mid-Atlantic region
Summer Squall gets even in the Preakness


Maryland Horse
July/August 1991 / $3.50
The Thoroughbred magazine for the Mid-Atlantic region
Hansel prevails in the Preakness

Maryland Horse
July/August 1992 / $3.50
The Thoroughbred magazine for the Mid-Atlantic region
PINE BLUFF'S PREAKNESS
Mid-Atlantic Derby hero
Are better horses to come?

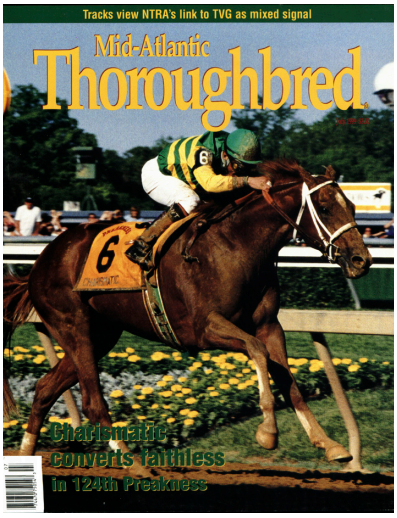

RESULTS OF REGION'S SANCTIONED STEEPLECHASES
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
July/August 1994 $3.50
Tabasco Cat's Preakness
a saucy triumph for
Young and Reynolds

STEEPLECHASING GAINS GROUND
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
July/August 1995 $3.50
TRIPLE CROWN:
Oliver's Twist gives
the Preakness a whirl


Female TV racing analysts have come a long way—maybe
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
July/August 1996 $3.50
Louis Quatorze
skips off with
Preakness

GARY CAPUANO • SPRING STEEPLECHASING • 2-YEAR-OLD SALE
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
July/August 1997 $3.50
Silver-coated finish
to sparkling
122nd Preakness

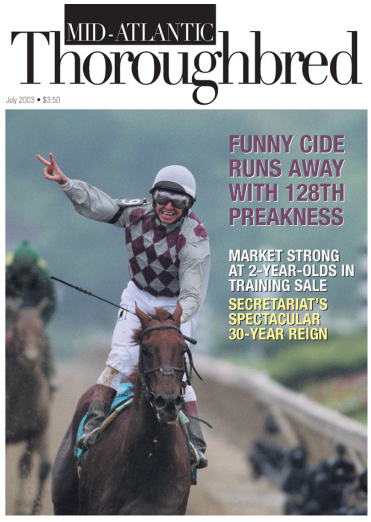
What NTRA's ad campaign is really saying
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Preakness hero
Real Quiet:
close but no Crown


Tracks view NTRA's link to TVG as mixed signal
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Charismatic
converts faithless
in 124th Preakness

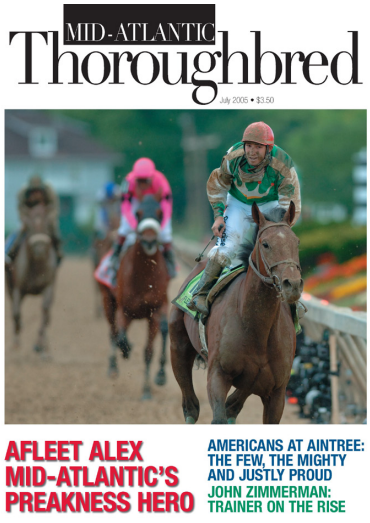
SHOULD AUCTION 2-YEAR-OLDS BE PUT TO THE (DRUG) TEST?
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Pegasus not
Bullet-proof
in 125th Preakness

MID-ATLANTIC
Thoroughbred
July 2001 • $3.50
POINT GIVEN MOVES
TO THE FORE
IN THE PREAKNESS
HOW ONE SAVVY
BETTOR NEARLY
STOPPED RACING
IN ITS TRACKS
FASIG-TIPTON
MIDLANTIC MAY
2-YEAR-OLD SALE

MID-ATLANTIC
Thoroughbred
July 2002 • $3.50
ALMOST MAGIC
PREAKNESS MAKES
WAR EMBLEM A HERO
A NEW ERA IN
NEW JERSEY?
FIGURES RISE AT
2-YEAR-OLDS IN
TRAINING SALE


MID-ATLANTIC
Thoroughbred
July 2003 • $3.50
FUNNY CIDE
RUNS AWAY
WITH 128TH
PREAKNESS
MARKET STRONG
AT 2-YEAR-OLDS IN
TRAINING SALE
SECRETARIAT'S
SPECTACULAR
30-YEAR REIGN

MID-ATLANTIC
Thoroughbred
July 2004 • $3.50
TRIPLE CROWN:
A GREAT JOURNEY
UNTIL THE VERY END
TWO-YEAR-OLDS IN
TRAINING SALE SETS
ALL-TIME RECORDS
REGION MOVES
TOWARD UNIFORM
MEDICATION RULES


MID-ATLANTIC
Thoroughbred
July 2005 • $3.50
AFLEET ALEX
MID-ATLANTIC'S
PREAKNESS HERO
AMERICANS AT AINTREE:
THE FEW, THE MIGHTY
AND JUSTLY PROUD
JOHN ZIMMERMAN:
TRAINER ON THE RISE

MID-ATLANTIC
Thoroughbred
July 2006
JUVENILE
SALE IS
BEST YET
BUG RIVER
GETS SECOND
HUNT CUP
VICTORY
BARBARO'S
SHATTERED
PREAKNESS

MID-ATLANTIC
Thoroughbred
July 2007 • $3.50
CURLIN'S CHILL-RAISING PREAKNESS
TRAINER MACK MILLER RECALLS GLORY YEARS
MARKET STAYS STRONG AT 2YOS IN TRAINING SALE

MID-ATLANTIC
Thoroughbred
July 2008 • $3.50
BIG BROWN DELIVERS IN PREAKNESS
FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC MAY SALE
MANY GIFTED WAYS OF THE LATE CLEM FLORIO

MID-ATLANTIC
Thoroughbred
July 2009 • $5
PREAKNESS WONDER WOMAN
HICKORY TREE FARM DAZZLES ONCE AGAIN
SALES RECORD FALLS AT TIMONIUM

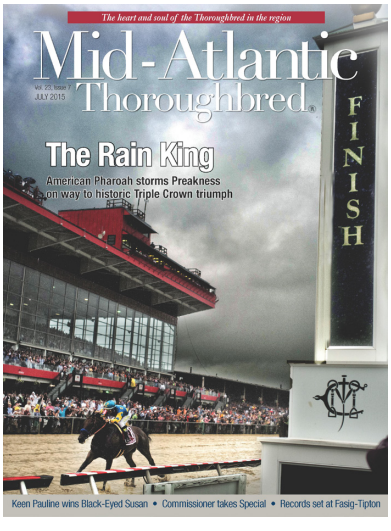
MID-ATLANTIC
Thoroughbred
July 2010 • $5
LUCKY 135TH PREAKNESS
PRESERVING PROUD HISTORY OF THE WAR HORSE
MAJOR TURNAROUND AT 2YOS IN TRAINING SALE

Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
July 2011 • $5
SHACKLEFORD: DREAM-SLAYER
PLUM PRETTY'S OAKS A MID-ATLANTIC VICTORY
2YOS IN TRAINING SALE POSTS SOLID NUMBERS

Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
One More Time:
I'll Have Another adds Preakness
ALTERNATION, IN LINGERIE SHINE ON A BIG WEEKEND AT PIMLICO
FASIG-TIPTON MAY 2-YEAR-OLD SALE

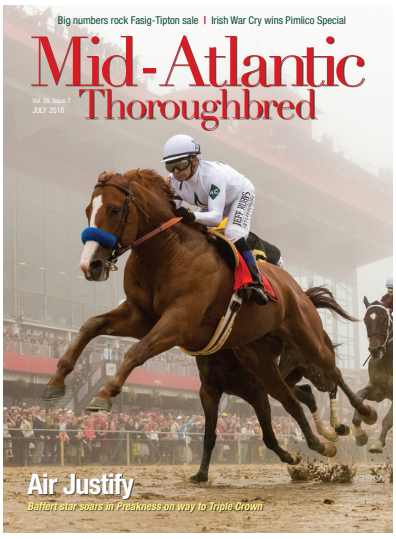
Preakness Partners
VETERANS LUKAS, STEVENS PULL UPSET WITH OXBOW
MAY 2-YEAR-OLD SALE ROCKS FASIG-TIPTON MIDLANTIC

The heart and soul of the Thoroughbred in the region
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
California Dreamin'
Derby winner dazzles Preakness
July 2014
Locals shine at Pimlico
May sale tops $19 million
Not For Love's legacy


The heart and soul of the Thoroughbred in the region
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
JULY 2015
The Rain King
American Pharoah storms Preakness on way to historic Triple Crown triumph
FINISH
Keen Pauline wins Black-Eyed Susan • Commissioner takes Special • Records set at Fasig-Tipton

The heart and soul of the Thoroughbred in the region
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Brother Act
Exaggerator, Desormeaux win Preakness
Ben's Cat wins another McKay • $1 million filly tops May sale • Cyril Murphy's magic spring

The heart and soul of the Thoroughbred in the region
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Tech Boom
Cloud Computing collars Classic Empire in Preakness
Curlin colt sets auction record at $1.5 million • Scorpiancer adds Iroquois to banner year


Big numbers rock Fasig-Tipton sale | Irish War Cry wins Pimlico Special
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Air Justify
Baffert star soars in Preakness on way to Triple Crown

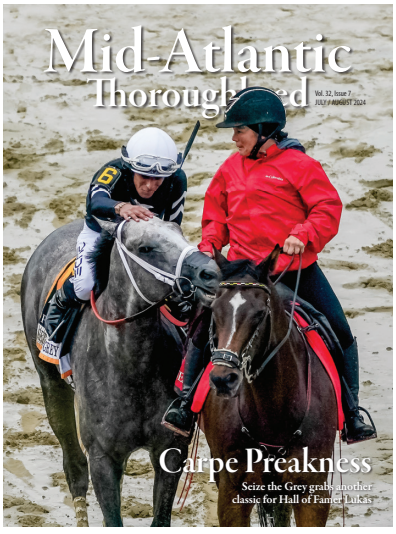
Point of Honor rules Black-Eyed Sukan | May sale sets records | Scorpiancer returns
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Will's Way
After Derby drama, Casse colt captures 144th Preakness

Regional-breds top yearling sale | Preakness streak memories | Laki wins De Francis
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Flying Finish
Swiss Skydiver denies Derby winner Authentic in Preakness

Chub Wagon wins again | Caravel, Mean Mary star at Pimlico | May sale sets records
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Nice Bouquet
Rombauer sparkles in Preakness triumph

Sale sets record | Snap Decision repeats in Iroquois | MD-breds win 3 at Pimlico
Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Poll Position
Early Voting rules in Preakness landslide

Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
No Secret
National Treasure stays up front
to take the Preakness for Baffert


Mid-Atlantic
Thoroughbred
Carpe Preakness
Seize the Grey grabs another
classic for Hall of Famer Lukas

RETIRED RACEHORSE PROJECT

Beginning to End

HOW CAN BREEDERS BEST SUPPORT THOROUGHBREDS BROUGHT INTO THE WORLD?

By Kristen Kovatch Bentley

As more equestrians return to the Thoroughbred as a top choice for sport and recreational riding, choices made by breeders and connections have a ripple effect far beyond the racetrack. While retiring horses sound is routinely referenced as the single best choice racing connections can make to set a horse up for its greatest chance of success in a career beyond the track (see "The Cost of Aftercare" in the November 2024 edition), breeders also have a part to play.

The Thoroughbred is one of the only breeds in North America primarily bred and raised for a sport which realistically it will only compete in for a few years. The majority of animals go on to do something drastically different for the rest of their lives. Because the financial realities of the racing and equestrian industries differ, it does not yet make economic sense to breed Thoroughbred racehorses with second-career considerations in the foreground. But breeders can make decisions to help create a sound athlete for any sport.

"First and foremost, I'm breeding a racehorse," said Justine Howell of Whysper Wynd Farm in Chester Springs, Pa. "That means I want them to be sound. If I breed an animal that doesn't hold up, I'm ruining the value of my mare."

Howell makes breeding decisions in a three-prong approach, breeding some mares for the commercial market, some for private sale in Pennsylvania's incentive program, and some to race herself. In addition to her breeding program, she works extensively with Mid-Atlantic Horse Rescue and CANTER Pennsylvania, owns several off-track Thoroughbreds, and regularly competes at the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover, all of which give her insight into the equestrian experience with the breed.

Layne Shaffer, farm manager at Arrowwood Farms in York Springs, Pa., has a similar background. In addition to her management of Arrowwood, she owns and competes a few homebreds in barrel racing and is a Thoroughbred Makeover veteran. Arrowwood primarily breeds to race, but keeps the commercial option open, pairing mares with strong catalog pages with commercially viable stallions.

"When we look at our mares, we generally ask if she's producing the level of horses we aspire to: that means upper-level claimers and allowance horses," Shaffer said. "We typically send our mares to three different sire lines for her first three foals to assess if she can out-produce her pedigree. At the end of the day, if the mares are passing something on that's counter to being a successful racehorse, that's not productive for us – the big factors are the ability and the soundness of the offspring. We want to make choices that will give us a racehorse."

In a perfect world, Howell and Shaffer would only breed mares with perfect conformation and soundness history, but that's not always realistic.

"I have a mare who retired with a knee problem," Howell said. "I choose stallions who are likely to improve the knee. She has a daughter running right now that has over $200,000 in earnings from 25 lifetime starts."

Shaffer has a similar mare, who required double knee surgery as a 2-year-old but came back to win at the allowance level. Arrowwood retired her when the surgeon advised it was time to stop and will pair her with stallions with sound racing

ERIN GILMORE (2)

Layne Shaffer (left) and Arrowwood Farm-bred Noteworthy go barrel racing nowadays. Justine Howell and Whysper Wynd Farm-bred Stonegate compete in dressage.

careers, as well as offspring running into their 3- and 4-year-old seasons.

"We'll likely approach that foal more carefully," Shaffer said. "We'll watch it at the trainer and be proactive about its career."

Sometimes, the best pairings on paper simply don't work.

"If breeding teaches you anything," Howell said, "it's that you can't predict anything."

She referenced a mare formerly in her broodmare band with commercial appeal who did not produce to expectations. She retired that mare from her program and she's now producing warmblood foals with a different breeder.

Even while making decisions to produce sound horses who can hold up to the rigors of sport (racing or the myriad of competitive and recreational options open to Thoroughbreds beyond racing), much can change with training, management and racing. Breeders still have an important role, even if a horse has left their ownership.

"I am particular about who I sell to," said Howell, describing trainers she knows will do right by her homebreds and know when it's time to retire a horse. The commercial sales are a bit more complicated, as there is no control over the buyer.

"The biggest asset for keeping track of commercial horses is using a well-established, well-liked consignor," she said. "My consignor will always find out exactly who has the horse, and nine times out of 10 already knows the person."

She acknowledges that some of this process is still left up to chance, but has been lucky so far: "Buyers of my horses have typically been good horsemen who already have a retirement plan or a program that they utilize for retirement."

With Arrowwood racing the majority of its homebreds, Shaffer tracks horses who have been commercially or privately sold, or claimed.

"I try not to be obnoxious about it," she said. "I don't want to bombard whoever has the horse; if the horse is consistently running and doing OK, I leave them alone."

When a horse hasn't worked or raced in a long time, she'll reach out to the connections. That isn't always an easy process.

"It can be a lot of investigative work," she said. "Sometimes, it's 'You have to know someone who knows someone who knows someone.' "

She recently re-purchased a horse from a second-career owner after being unable to connect with his last racing connections.

While Arrowwood doesn't have a formal retirement policy or program, Shaffer leaves the door open for homebreds to come back to the farm if they need a home, and carefully networks homes for horses who retire from the racing string. It's a fair amount of extra work to do well, but a necessary step to continue to do right by the horses – even those who have left farm ownership, and even ones who have left racing.

"I personally feel a certain level of responsibility, even if it's just placing a sale ad or helping to make a connection to a good home," said Shaffer. "It's not always feasible to take them back, but I'd go to pretty good lengths to get one back that I thought was in a bad situation."

Howell agreed.

"I will always have a part in responsibility for horses I bred," she said. "Everyone who has been part of the horse's life shares responsibility. My goal is always to breed a hardworking athlete, even if that purpose ends up not being at the racetrack." ■

Kristen Kovatch Bentley is the managing director of the Retired Racehorse Project.

Sample Home

WASHINGTON STATE OWNER/BREEDER REAPS REWARDS IN MARYLAND

By Paul Halloran

It is 2,752 miles from Ravenswood Farm in Issaquah, Wash., to Laurel Park racetrack in Maryland. It took Frank Sample's horses awhile to get there, but they have arrived and are finding the winner's circle with regularity.

Sample's isn't a strength-in-numbers operation the likes of Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners, Klaravich Stables or WinStar Farm. It is quite literally a small Sample size, with two horses in the Mid-Atlantic and one in Arizona, closer to his home in Washington, where his racing story began.

The two in Maryland – 3-year-old filly Onyx Ten and 4-year-old gelding Secret Zipper – had collectively won six consecutive races before Onyx Ten's defeat in the Beyond The Wire Stakes March 22. They are both homebreds out of Chattolanee, a Pennsylvania-bred Sample would have never owned if his bloodstock agent had paid closer attention.

After having little success with yearlings in Washington, where he moved for his job almost 35 years ago, Sample bought two weanlings at the Keeneland November sale in 2013. When his veterinarian got a look at them – after the sale – he was incredulous.

"What the hell are you doing with these horses?" Sample recalled the vet saying to him. "There's no way he could have looked at the vet records. Both of them have issues with their legs and hips."

Matanzas, a colt by Henny Hughes with a $25,000 sale price, never started. Sample paid $30,000 for Chattolanee, a filly by Rock Hard Ten who managed two wins in nine starts before Sample retired her for breeding. Her first foal, Washington-bred High Rock, lost all six starts. Raven's Quest, also a Washington-bred, has won three times for Sample and is in training at Turf Paradise.

Sample moved Chattolanee, in foal to West Coast stallion Raised a Secret, to Maryland in 2020 and bred her to Maryland stallion Street Magician in 2021 – resulting in Secret Zipper and Onyx Ten.

At the same time, Sample was campaigning his most successful horse, Washington-bred Zabracadabra, for whom he paid $22,000 at a Washington-bred yearling sale in 2018. He won eight times and banked $367,348 from 2019-23. He is retired and living at Ravenswood.

Zabracadabra was trained by Gary Capuano, to whom Sample was introduced by the late Dave Picarello of ZWP Stable about 15 years ago, when Sample had an office in Maryland. If Sample were going to make it in the Mid-Atlantic, Picarello told him, Capuano would be a good choice to condition his horses.

"Gary is super-honest and very straightforward," said Sample. "He tries to set horses up in spots they can be competitive. That's all I care about."

Secret Zipper broke his maiden in his second start as a 2-year-old in 2023, but came up short in three straight to begin his sophomore campaign. He then captured four straight allowance races, two last year and two this year.

"He's a consistent sort," said Capuano. "Only one race was not good [ninth in his third career start in 2023]. We gave him some time off a few times and he got himself together. He really blossomed last fall and this year."

Secret Zipper, who has earned $151,609 in 11 starts, won a Laurel allowance by 7¼ lengths Jan. 31 and another by 2 lengths Feb. 21 under J.G. Torrealba.

"You never think they're going to go on a streak like that," Capuano said. "That was another powerful run last time. The water will start to get pretty deep."

Onyx Ten, who also broke her maiden her second time out at 2, has been swimming in the stakes pool since, running for black type in five of her last seven races. She was starting to

JIM MCCUE

Onyx Ten wins the Wide Country Stakes at Laurel Park in February for owner/breeder Frank Sample.

look like a career bridesmaid when losing six in a row while finishing second twice, third and fifth. Then the calendar turned to 2025.

Onyx Ten closed from third to win the Xtra Heat Stakes at Laurel Jan. 25, then came from fourth to take the Wide Country Stakes, both for 3-year-old fillies, with Torrealba. She took $191,025 in earnings into the Beyond The Wire.

"She has exceeded my expectations," said Sample, a retired healthcare technology executive. "She's young, a May 2 foal. Gary does the best he can with the horses he has. I leave it all to him."

Racing is a family business for Capuano, whose father, Philip, and brother, Dale, were also trainers. His son, Phil, took over Dale's operation when he retired at the end of 2022. Gary's daughter, Tori, is his assistant and his son, Justin, is a hotwalker. He is thrilled to see Sample on this kind of roll.

"Frank deserves it," Capuano said. "He's very patient and never forces anything on you. He's been a phenomenal owner to work with. He didn't have this success early. It's great to see."

Sample runs his modest racing operation the way he ran his companies, two of which he brought public.

"When I get good people I depend on them," he said. "If I can trust them, I support them. That's how I feel about Gary."

Becky Davis and Lynn Ashby can share in the credit for Onyx Ten and Secret Zipper. Both horses were foaled and weaned at Roland Farm in Warwick, Md., owned by Davis' parents, Tom and Chris Bowman, while Ashby broke both horses at her Marlyn Meadow Farm, just across the state line in Delaware.

Chattolanee came to Davis in foal to Raised a Secret and delivered a large foal March 18, 2021. That prompted Davis to recommend Sample send the mare that year to a stallion

> "Maryland has been a great circuit for us. There are plenty of races and it's competitive. They take good care of the tracks. I'm very pleased."
>
> *– Owner/breeder Frank Sample*

likely to produce a more reasonably sized foal. She suggested Street Magician, whose foals tend to be "precocious and easy to deal with," she said.

Based on what she saw from Onyx Ten as a foal, Davis has been pleasantly surprised by her success.

"She did not have the best conformation," Davis said. "I was concerned about how fast she was growing what her joints looked like. It's interesting that she's done as well as she has. I love it when we're wrong. It proves how much we don't know."

Chattolanee died last year, but Davis has Sample's broodmare Avilles on her farm. The winning daughter of Alternation lost a foal this year and will be bred to a Maryland stallion this spring.

Ashby, who is from Trout Lake, Wash., is also enjoying Sample's recent success.

"I am thrilled that you're doing this article," she said. "Frank has done well sending his horses to the Mid-Atlantic area. The babies get sent to me and I raise them and as yearlings start them under tack. As 2-year-olds they go to Gary Capuano and you know the history there. They come back to me when they need a break. The winning is very fortunate."

Sample grew up in Pawling, N.Y., and rode Western horses as a child. He bought the Ravenswood property in 1997 and turned it into an equestrian center where his wife Michelle and daughter Lindsay could ride their hunter jumpers. He still owns Ravenswood, where about 40 horses live, including a handful he owns. The rest are boarders.

These days, Sample splits his time between Florida and Washington, but his modest racing operation is entrenched in the Mid-Atlantic.

"Maryland has been a great circuit for us," he said. "There are plenty of races and it's competitive. They take good care of the tracks. I'm very pleased." ■

Vetericyn®
ANIMAL WELLNESS
NEW PRODUCT!
Vetericyn DRESSING GEL
2 JAR VALUE PACK
Vetericyn HOOF SOAK
Vetericyn WOUND CARE
Vetericyn HOOF CARE
Vetericyn LINIMENT
Vetericyn FoamCare MEDICATED SHAMPOO
NEW SIZE!
CLEAN. TREAT. HEAL.®
Vetericyn® makes the most advanced, effective, and safe products to keep horses healthy. Whether it's cleaning wounds, treating hoof or eye issues, or conditioning and cleaning the coat, horse lovers trust Vetericyn for total equine wellness.
Made in the USA using foreign and domestic components
866.318.3116

Frommer returns to Virginia roots

LONGTIME PINHOOKER BIDS FAREWELL TO SOUTH CAROLINA BASE

by Liane Crossley. Photographs by Barry Bornstein

Life came full circle this spring for Cary Frommer when she returned to where her Thoroughbred career began. Best known in recent decades as an Aiken, S.C.-based consignor and preparer of 2-year-olds, Frommer relocated to Middleburg, Va., this month. Her plan is to continue her training business on a smaller scale, capitalize on the digital sales trend, and patronize the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sales in Timonium, Md.

"I have been in Aiken for 45 years and I just felt like I needed a change, so I made this huge, enormous change," she said. "The incentive program for horses residing in Virginia is so good that it became an obvious place to go. I am very excited about it. I will go with the attitude that I will make it all winter but if training gets too difficult, I will look to bring horses to Aiken for a few months."

Frommer was scheduled to ship her horses to Middleburg May 1, around the same time she begins moving into her home in the village of Bluemont, 20 minutes north of Middleburg. At the conclusion of selling season and after sending remaining horses to their official track trainers, Frommer expects to complete settling into her residence during the summer prior to yearling sales time.

The relocation brings her back to the beginning of her career.

Frommer grew up riding show horses in hunter and jumper divisions before gravitating toward the racing world as a freelance rider at the Middleburg Training Center in 1980. Seeking an escape to a warmer climate a few years later, she readily accepted a job offer to school young horses in Aiken. Through the years she migrated to various tracks, training facilities and farms while calling Aiken home. Her 30 years as an exercise rider included time with Virgininian Paul Mellon's renowned Rokeby Stable under Hall of Fame trainer MacKenzie "Mack" Miller in the 1980s.

She credits her time with Miller for laying the foundation of her specialty. She reviewed catalog pages and learned what separates superior Thoroughbreds from ordinary.

"I was able to feel what a really well-bred, top-notch horse felt like; it is different," she said. "But I also learned that horses can be very confusing. A horse that doesn't seem like much turns out to have a huge heart and will outrun the competition. And you can have a horse that feels like the best you have ever been on, but their heart is not in the game. You can find out a little bit, but you have to test them a little and find out what is in their heart."

Frommer began as a bloodstock agent by dabbling in the resale business with her money and reinvesting the profits. She continued to follow that strategy with others' funds and partners to become a sought-after consignor.

"My favorite part of my business is buying," Frommer said. "I only sell so I can buy more. I like the process of trying to figure out the animal in front of me and what it will grow into."

Her program has produced high sellers and upper-echelon runners such as Grade 1-placed Trappe Shot, who set a record when he was sold for $850,000 at the Timonium 2-year-old sale in May 2009. In 2016, she made headlines by selling a pair of million-dollar Uncle Mo colts. She proudly notes Still Having Fun as another star graduate. A $12,000 yearling at the 2016 Timonium fall sale, the Maryland-bred went on to bank nearly $650,000 in a 37-race career punctuated by his 2018 Woody Stephens Stakes-G2 victory on Belmont Stakes Day.

Cary Frommer checks in with a filly headed toward the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sale this month.

"He is what I call an invisible horse," she said. "Came out, did his job every day. He became a Grade 2 winner and nobody saw it coming."

Henley's Joy and Bradester have similar stories. Both were $20,000 purchases as Timonium yearlings who blossomed into Grade 1-winning millionaires.

Another overachiever is recently crowned Maryland-bred Horse of the Year Post Time, runner-up last year in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-G1 who also placed in the Metropolitan Handicap-G1 and Whitney Stakes-G1.

Frommer focuses on extracting her pupils' competitive drive.

"I want my horses to look each other in the eye and want to beat the horse next to them," she said. "When I want a nice gallop, I separate them. When they are with each other, I want them to be little tigers."

Going Digital

In moving to Virginia, Frommer envisions doing what she has always done but on a smaller scale. She describes her life as "miserable" when she peaked at 70 horses five years ago. She began downsizing until she had horses consolidated in a 25-stall Aiken barn with the majority targeting racing stables instead of auctions. In her latest incarnation, Frommer expects

Timonium Honor Roll

A few of the 2-year-olds (with price and career highlights) sold by Cary Frommer at Timonium:

TRAPPE SHOT: $850,000; Grade 2 winner; sire.

MAXIMUS MISCHIEF: $340,000; Grade 2 winner; top-five first- and second-crop sire nationally; 2025 leading third-crop sire nationally

NOT FOR SILVER: $85,000; Grade 2 winner of $303,870.

PRINCESS WARRIOR: $60,000; Grade 2 winner of $456,664.

SACRED WISH: $50,000; Grade 1 winner of $1,076,338 (through March).

DANCE TO BRISTOL: $42,000; Grade 1 winner of $980,880.

Looking Ahead, and Back

What Frommer looks forward to in Virginia:

- Beautiful state, especially Middleburg area with green rolling hills.
- Incentive program for horses bred or residing in Virginia.
- Consolidating entire stable in one 20-stall barn.
- Option to spend winters in Aiken if necessary.

What Frommer will miss about Aiken:

- Incredible weather.
- Knowing everything about Aiken inside and out.
- Wonderful, cultured small town.
- Training track considered one of the nation's best.
- Friends, especially those who visit during training hours.

Timonium Preview

Strategically scaled back to a boutique consignment (as of March 29), Cary Frommer's string at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's May sale could include:

Frosted—Manhattan Madam colt. Bred in Maryland by Bowman and Higgins Stable. Half-brother to stakes winner Bawlmer Hon and seven other winners. Purchased for $67,000 at the 2024 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale.

Mitole—Sexy Reasons (Arg) colt. Bred in Kentucky by John Davison. Out of Uruguayan champion. Purchased for $27,000 at the 2024 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale.

Honor A. P.—Bread and Butter filly. Bred in Maryland by Dark Hollow Farm. Half-sister to three winners. From family of stakes horses Bamba, Plum, Edie Meeny Miny Mo. Purchased for $28,000 at the 2024 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale.

to concentrate on preparing horses for other trainers while continuing forays to Timonium. The timing is perfect to dig into the digital marketplace where her first attempt produced encouraging results.

In Fasig-Tipton's February digital sale, Frommer was represented by five 2-year-olds, topped by a Great Notion colt who attracted a final bid of $180,000. Frommer purchased the Maryland-bred for $35,000 at last year's Timonium yearling sale. Videos showed the juveniles galloping instead of the customary all-out breezes at typical in-training auctions.

The format fits Frommer, who wants her horses to find their ultimate success on the racetrack rather than an eighth-mile drill. She wants to present well-prepared, confident athletes and leave the fine-tuning for their next stop.

"For the digital sale, I trained them the same way I do for the track," she said. "We did a lot of video footage of them walking through the starting gate and galloping alone and in company. We wanted to show what they were like in training, not just what they could do in 10 seconds on one morning.

"My theory has always been that I don't want the best day of my horses' lives to be at a 2-year-old sale. So, my horses are never quite as fast as the others. They work nicely and sell well, but I probably leave money on the table because they are a tick or two off. But it is worth it to me. At the sales, everything is done on numbers. They are timed and ranked by the people who do the gallop-out list. It is all numbers and systems and not horsemanship."

The digital market fits the old-school horsemanship Frommer honed in her years with Rokeby and others whose focus benefits the long-term future of the animals.

"People on both sides need to trust the digital sale if it is going to succeed," she said. "I love the format."

As she looks ahead to new-age selling and establishing herself in Virginia, Frommer is philosophical.

"I love Aiken and I always will," she said. "I have gone through a lot and lived a whole life there. My life has been divided into phases and I am on to the next one."

Post Time among star graduates

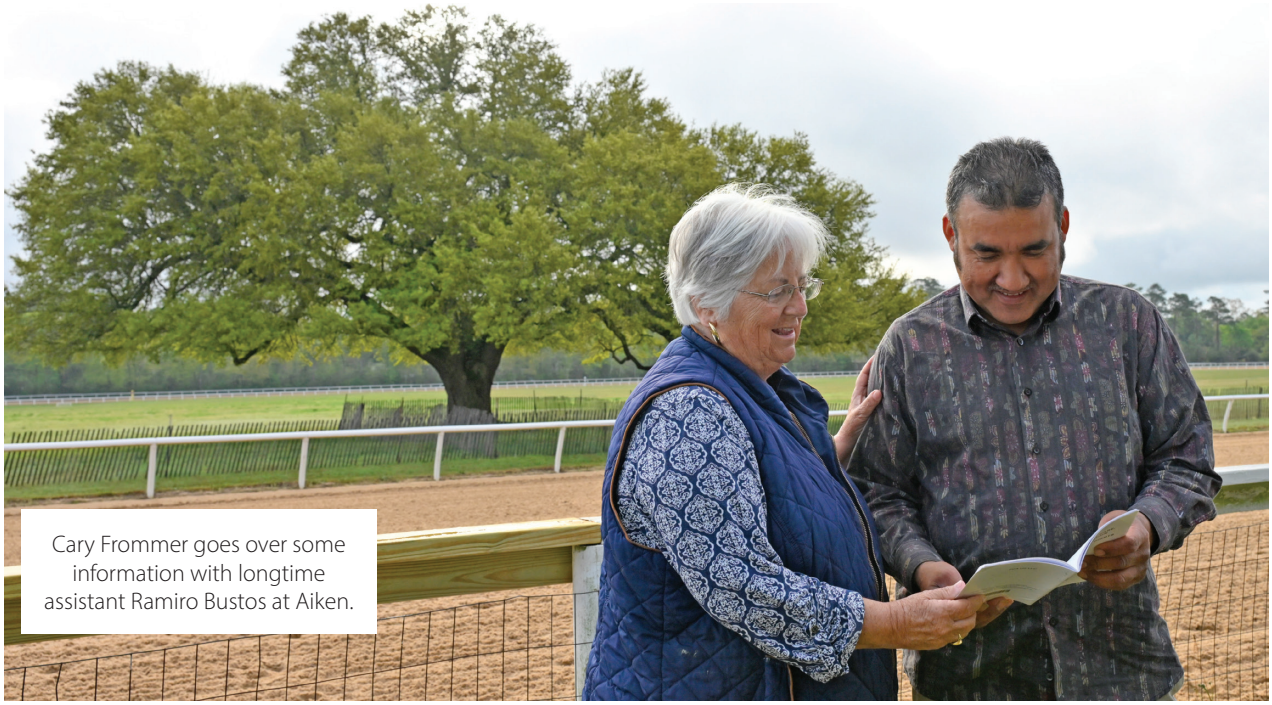
Millionaire Post Time ranks high on the honor roll of Thoroughbreds from Frommer's program. Bred by Dr. and Mrs. Tom Bowman, Dr. Brooke Bowman and Milton Higgins III, Post Time went to the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale in Timonium, where Frommer signed the ticket for $85,000. She joined forces with Ellen Charles with the intention to pinhook him, but the plan changed for an unlikely reason.

Charles, who has campaigned some of Maryland's most well-known horses in her Hillwood Stable, noticed something intriguing in his pedigree. Post Time's second dam, Merriweather, shared a name with Charles' grandmother Marjorie Merriweather Post. She bought out Frommer, sent the colt to trainer Brittany Russell and Post Time has – so far – won nine of 15 starts, never finished worse than third and earned $1,227,910.

Post Time displayed his fluid movement and competitive drive well before his first race.

> "I have gone through a lot and lived a whole life there. My life has been divided into phases and I am on to the next one."
> *–Cary Frommer, on moving from Aiken, S.C., to Middleburg, Va.*

"I would be lying if I said I knew all along that he would turn into such a good horse," Frommer said. "He was not the best-behaved horse. I remember he reared up a few times walking past the starting gate, but my riders are good and they did not pay it that much attention. When he started breezing, I knew that he was quick. I knew that even before from seeing him at the farm before I bought him. He showed a dimension of running that a lot of horses don't have. But I did not know how tenacious he is. He knows how the race is supposed to end. He is going to run that last eighth of a mile like his life depends on it." ■



Cary Frommer goes over some information with longtime assistant Ramiro Bustos at Aiken.

— Trackside: Charles Town —

Shining Bright

MOONLIT NOTION RUNS RECORD TO 5-FOR-5 FOR GRAMS RACING

By Alí Çetinok

For Tim and Judy Grams, a feeling of déjà vu has taken over mixed with destiny – one that began with a claim, bloomed with a stakes star, and carries on through undefeated colt Moonlit Notion.

Perfect in five starts, four this year (through April 21), Moonlit Notion hasn't just stepped forward as one of Charles Town's most exciting prospects of 2025 – he's also a vivid symbol of continuity. The Gramses bred, train and own the Great Notion 3-year-old under Grams Racing Stable. They did the same with his dam, Moonlit Song, who helped define a generation of West Virginia-bred excellence, and they even campaigned Moonlit Song's dam Malibu Kitten after claiming her. It's a three-generation family affair, steeped in the dirt of Charles Town and powered by patience, intuition and a little fire.

"He was always good-looking from day one," Tim Grams said. "He was a good-looking baby the whole time. He's pretty easy to manage. But he was just always a real good-looking individual – kind of laid back, but when it's time to wake up, he knows when to wake up."

Laid back may be his off-track nature, but Moonlit Notion is nothing short of electric once the gates spring open. He breezed through early competition this year with a kind of effortless rhythm, suggesting he may soon follow his dam into stakes company. And just like his dam before him, Moonlit Notion wasn't exactly a push-button juvenile.

"He was a little bit of a handful to break," Grams said. "Everybody that helped me at the farm break him – he got them all off a couple times. He wasn't ornery, but he was just so quick when we broke him that it was easy for him."

That raw athleticism settled with time, thanks in part to the steady hand of jockey Larry Reynolds, who works closely with the Grams barn. Reynolds rode his first race in 1986 and was up to 22,636 mounts through April 10 – 3,433 of them wins. He can credit Moonlit Notion with four, and counting.

"Once he got going good, got into the racetrack – Larry Reynolds, he helps us at the track and rides for us – he took a liking to the colt, and he's done good," Grams said. "The colt just seemed like a horse early on. His mother was a little bit like that too. But when he woke up, he really woke up."

Sent off at even money in a 4½-furlong maiden race, Moonlit Notion won his debut in November – drawing off late for Reynolds to oust seven rivals. He returned in January and aired again, scoring by 5½ lengths at 2-5. Extended to 6½ furlongs Feb. 13, the gray colt won again while holding off Flyin Mayan by a half-length. On March 20, he made one more step up the allowance ladder (non-winners of four) and prevailed by a half-length over Nocashrefunds. Moonlit Notion stepped up again April 18, winning another allowance to run the winning streak to five.

Moonlit Song also needed time to mentally arrive, but once she did, she became a juggernaut. The daughter of Fiber Sonde started twice as a 2-year-old, winning once, but was nearly unstoppable the following year – winning eight of 11, topped by five stakes including the Cavada on West Virginia Breeders Classics night. She retired with 14 wins and nine placings in 26 starts and earned $404,840.

And even she was a homegrown project, birthed from a mare the Gramses claimed more for her pedigree than her resume.

"We wanted her as a racehorse, but we liked her breeding," Grams said of Malibu Kitten, an $8,000 claim from breeder Gordie Keys in the fall of 2010. "She was by Parker's Storm Cat out of a Malibu Moon mare, so her sire and her dam's

sire are half-brothers, both out of the same mare – Macoumba. Doubled up on that Macoumba, that's one reason why we wanted her."

That decision – to invest in bloodlines and build from within – has proven to be one of the shrewdest of the Gramses' careers. Malibu Kitten won five races for the Gramses and outdid herself as a broodmare. Not only did she produce Moonlit Song, but stakes-placed runners Moonlit Shadow (who won 10 races and earned $347,576) and Malibu Splash. All four of her winners (from five starters) earned six figures. The consistency within the family runs deep.

"It's been nice having the whole family and watching them come around," Grams said. "They've all got so many of the same characteristics."

COADY PHOTOGARPHY

Grams Racing Stable homebred Moonlit Notion heads to the finish with his fifth consecutive win at Charles Town April 18.

That includes a somewhat deceptive development curve. The horses don't always dazzle in early lessons but grow into themselves at just the right time.

"The ones we've had out of that mare – slow starters," Grams said. "They go through the motions and everything, and you like the way they look, but they're the type that once the light comes on, you can say, 'Now we're in business – because the light came on today.' "

That light switch moment has already come for Moonlit Notion – and possibly for his full-sister too. Moonlit Kiss, Moonlit Song's first foal, won six of 11 starts last year at age 3 and earned more than $115,000. She was ready to make her first start of 2025 in mid-April.

Moonlit Song delivered a Twirling Candy colt in 2024. She didn't have a foal this year and was bred to Tiz the Law. The Twirling Candy yearling may be headed to bigger things as the Gramses will consider sending him to a sale.

"We stepped up with the mare's breeding for an investment, hopefully, we could capitalize on," Grams said.

For now, all eyes are on Moonlit Notion, who may soon take his first swing at stakes company with Charles Town's $75,000 Coin Collector for West Virginia-bred 3-year-olds on the radar May 10.

NOTES: Ronney Brown (36 wins) and **Anthony Farrior** (34) were battling at the top of the Charles Town trainers' standings in early April, followed by Jeff Runco (24). All three were winning at 20 percent or better, with Runco leading the way at 29 percent. The Grams barn had won 12 races, putting Tim within seven of 1,000 for his career (through April 10) . . . **Moonlit Notion** was one of four horses with three wins at the track so far this year. **Duncan Idaho** tripled to start his season, raising his lifetime record to 13-for-20 for Runco and owner David Raim. Maryland-bred 4-year-old filly **Mudslide** won her first three of the year – a maiden and two allowances – for owners/breeders Kelly Lynn Deiter and Gordon Policastro. Deiter also trains the daughter of Competitive Edge. Maryland-bred **Buckin' Dreamer** was also 3-for-3 at Charles Town (with a fourth at Laurel Park mixed in). Bred by Lady Olivia at North Cliff, the son of Imagining now races for Farrior and Conroy Thoroughbreds. ■

The Steeplechase Times

Day at the Beach

LOCAL HORSE WINS CAROLINA CUP TO HIGHLIGHT EARLY JUMPS SEASON

By Sean Clancy

Purchased for $2,500 as a yearling. A three-time winner on the flat. Beaten double digits for a $6,250 claiming tag. Given as a Valentine's Day present. Nearly sold for a tractor. And now a Carolina Cup winner.

China Beach upset the first novice hurdle stakes of the season, dominating the $75,000 Carolina Cup at Springdale Race Course in Camden, S.C., March 29. Owned by St. Rita Racing, trained by Kate Dalton and ridden by her husband Bernie, the 7-year-old son of Treasure Beach (GB) drew off to win by 5½ lengths over Little Trilby (GB) and Evie's Prince. Based in Camden, the Daltons secured their second consecutive Carolina Cup after taking the 2024 edition with Abaan.

There is nothing like a local win.

"I thought the horse was going to run well, but even I was excited there," Kate Dalton said a few days after the win. "It's always nice to win at home. You feel like everybody is little bit more a part of it. The maintenance crew guys dropped off a bag of carrots for China Beach this week. Everyone feels like they have a hand in it which is nice."

Bernie Dalton had a big hand in it, locking his legs and holding the Florida-bred in a perfect spot behind Grade 1 winner Carloun (Ire) and Aiken Fall winner Little Trilby.

Cat meet birds.

Pressured on the lead, Carloun wilted after the third-last hurdle, Little Trilby inherited the front and carried China Beach to the head of the stretch where the bay gelding pounced. China Beach flew the last, Dalton looked over his left shoulder, stood tall, punched the air and thanked his horse with a grateful pat on the neck. All the while, Kate Dalton was trading hugs with Little Trilby's assistant trainer Jessica McCabe and China Beach's co-owners Ted and Rita Thompson on the ground floor of Springdale Race Course. The moment was so good race director Toby Edwards got a video with his smart phone. Send it to the Camden Chamber of Commerce.

"In our sport, it seems like there are a lot of people out there happy for a lot of other people out there," Kate Dalton said. "Other trainers come up and say, 'Wow, congratulations.' And they mean it. They're not being polite. And I mean it when I congratulate someone. Everybody appreciates a good horse."

China Beach has become a good horse.

Purchased as a yearling at the OBS October Sale by owner/trainer Don Brown, China Beach broke his maiden in his 12th start on the flat way back in 2022 at Tampa Bay Downs. He won twice more for Brown before taking an eight-month break and returning with two dull efforts while sliding down to the $6,250 claiming level for Brown and trainer Lilli Kurtinecz at Gulfstream Park in December 2023.

Steeplechase jockey Mell Boucher suggested the horse to Thompson, a do-it-yourself horseman based in Cornersville, Tenn. Not looking for a horse, Thompson watched a few replays, liked the walk/trot video, figured he was buying a useful horse and, hey, maybe a Valentine's Day gift.

"I wasn't any sort of genius, I just thought he would be a cool horse, and we would have some fun. He's exceeded expectations for sure," Thompson said. "I thought he was going to be a 110, 115 [handicap] kind of horse and then run over

TOD MARKS

China Beach powers over a jump in the Carolina Cup at Springdale Race Course in Camden, S.C.

timber. Don Brown had a great time with the horse. He loves the horse. Don and I talk or text at least once a month, 'Just checking in on him. How's he doing? Where's he going?' "

Thompson took China Beach to his farm, let him down, taught him to jump and gave him to Rita as a Valentine's Day gift in February. "I bought her flowers, too," Ted said. By March, the gift was in Camden winning a flat race with Ted Thompson as trainer and Bernie Dalton as jockey.

"He's a little bit of a funny horse," Ted said. "He's a great jumper, but he's a little bit leery to everything you introduce him to, for me to get him up and schooling on my own just wasn't going to happen, so I called Bernie and Kate and asked if they could run him at the end of Colonial [Downs]. Which was the plan, and it was going great until the vet spun us."

Scratched from a hurdle race at Colonial Downs in Virginia last summer, China Beach made his hurdle debut at Maryland's Shawan Downs in September, finishing fourth in a solid effort. He came back and finished third at Callaway Gardens before winning with authority at Aiken in November.

Time to discuss another plan.

The Thompsons and Daltons sat around the barn the next day and talked about what to do next. A bit of time off and then some kind of allowance or handicap at the season opener at Aiken or . . .

"They thought he definitely wins a 120, probably a non-winners of two and they said if you want to do something cheeky, you run him in the Cup," Ted said. "I went back and watched the race a few times and thought that's probably a good option."

Some well-deserved green Tennessee grass in December and a harried jogging program with the Thompsons forced a quick return ticket to Camden.

"This horse is like a bear," Ted texted. "I'm sending him back to you."

"They had him tuned to the minute and he loves it there. So much of it comes down to Bernie and Kate. I don't know that he would have won that race the way he did for anybody else."

– China Beach's owner Ted Thompson, about the Daltons (jockey and trainer)

TOD MARKS

Bred in France and imported from Ireland, Porte Jaune helps jockey Stephen Mulqueen get started early with a filly/mare maiden win at Aiken.

The Daltons folded him into the program.

"We were delighted to have him back, he came back in January, and he was indeed a bear," Kate said. "We thought we would nominate to the Cup and enter at Aiken. As it was getting closer, we were like, 'Forget it, just nominate to the Cup.' He was training really, really well and I was like, 'Let's take a shot and see what happens.' "

China Beach made it happen with a polished score over far more accomplished rivals, stamping himself as one of the sport's top novices.

"I told Rita, 'This is the best day in racing I've ever had,' " said Ted Thompson, who won nine races as a jockey and has won eight as a trainer. "They had him tuned to the minute and he loves it there. So much of it comes down to Bernie and Kate. I don't know that he would have won that race the way he did for anybody else. They're specialists at that. If they ever ask if you want to be cheeky, just say yes."

As for the tractor, it's still on layaway as the Daltons and Thompsons point China Beach to the richest novice stakes of the season at the Thompsons' hometown meet, Iroquois, May 10 – the $125,000 Green Pastures.

Fielding offers for China Beach in the fall, Ted Thompson mentioned needing a tractor. As the offers grew after an impressive win at Aiken, Kate asked the obvious question.

"Are you buying a tractor or are you keeping the horse?"

Thompson found a few partners and aimed at the Carolina Cup.

As owner and trainer hustled back to the barn to saddle a horse in the finale at Camden, the tractor came back into play.

"Yeah, $125,000 at Nashville . . ." Ted said. "That tractor is getting closer."

Jumping Around

Jockey Stephen Mulqueen jumped right back into action with a double at the Aiken Steeplechase, the National Steeplechase Association opener, March 22. Sidelined with a broken right wrist and elbow at the Colonial Cup in November, the formerly Scottish-based jockey guided import Porte Jaune (Fr) to win a filly and mare maiden hurdle for Leipers Fork Steeplechase, Madaket Stable and Layton Register. Two races later, Mulqueen galvanized Upland Flats Racing's Blue Creek to win the $40,000 feature by a half-length. Fair Hill Training Center-based Keri Brion trained both winners.

"It's a good start," Mulqueen said. "I fancied both of the horses the first week back. It was nice to get the ball rolling and get the year off to a good start."

With a plate and seven screws in his right wrist, Mulqueen came back as good as ever, winning four races and surviving two falls in the early weeks of the season.

"I suppose if you try to look after yourself because you've had a fall, that's the wrong way to do it," Mulqueen said. "I was saying all along, 'I can't wait to get my first fall' because when

DOUGLAS LEES

Breeder/owner Mike Hankin (second from left) greets Maryland-bred Mission North, twice a winner on the flat at Laurel last year, after a win at Old Dominion.

TOD MARKS

Maryland-based trainer Tom Garner (right) meets Irish-bred Noble Anthem after a handicap hurdle score at the Carolina Cup. It was the former jockey's third win as a trainer.

you get a fall then you know you're OK and you can just get on with things. It's peace of mind, knowing you can still do it."

After four weekends of racing, Mulqueen and Gerard Galligan sat atop the jockey standings with four wins apiece.

■ Former jockey Barry John Foley won his first race as a trainer, securing a maiden hurdle with Biggerthanbigtime (Ire) at Aiken. Owned by Green Valley Construction and John Moylan, the son of English-bred Camacho led every step to win by a nose. Jockey James O'Sullivan picked up his first United States win with a front-running effort.

■ Former jockey Tom Garner unveiled Noble Anthem (Ire) to win a tough 115 handicap hurdle at the Carolina Cup. Owned by Ballybristol Farm, the son of Starspangledbanner (Aus) settled well of the pace before rallying to win by 2½ lengths under apprentice Evan Dwan.

■ Irish-breds Court Ruler, Wrestlingwithrae, Imperial Assassin and Macheeda swept the timber card at the Cheshire Races in Unionville, Pa., March 30. Owned by Leipers Fork, Court Ruler picked up his 12th win with a head decision in the $20,000 feature for trainer Leslie Young, who doubled on the card. Race co-chairman Kathy Neilson also doubled with maiden breakers Imperial Assassin and Macheeda.

■ Trainer Julie Gomena unleashed Winning Spirit (Ger) to win a maiden hurdle at Old Dominion April 5. Second in the Derby Italiano-G2 and fourth in the German Derby-G1 in 2023, the 5-year-old disappointed on the turf for trainer Christophe Clement but relished the change in scenery, winning by 6 lengths for Bonnie Rye Stables and Galligan.

■ Maryland-bred Mission North, a two-time flat winner over the Laurel Park turf last year, dominated five rivals in his hurdle debut at Old Dominion April 5. Bred and owned by Northwoods Stable and trained by Jack Fisher, the son of Noble Mission (GB) settled and pounced to score by 4 lengths under Graham Watters.

NOTES: **Fisher, Neilson, Young** and **Brion** were deadlocked in the trainers' standings with three wins after four weekends . . . Laurel flat runners in 2024, **Roja Redemption** and **Awesome Strike,** won their hurdle debuts, at Blue Ridge in April and the Carolina Cup in March, respectively. They finished 1-2 on the turf at Laurel Sept. 21 . . . Maryland-bred **Bogey's Image** won the $50,000 My Lady's Manor timber stakes April 12. The son of Imagining has won half of his six NSA timber starts. Another Maryland-bred, Mr. Fine Threads, gave 19-year-old jockey **Sophie O'Brien** her first win in the amateur/apprentice timber on the Manor card (see June edition for full Maryland timber coverage). ■

— Broker's Tip —

BY RICK ABBOTT

Incurably small time

On occasion, in writing these articles over the past five years I have certainly fallen into the trap of self aggrandizement. In most cases I have tried to communicate a story that other horsemen would read and relate to as an experience that could, or did, happen to them in their years of picking up after horses.

Some stories are slightly embarrassing, and some relate to things in which I take pride but in which I was no more, or less, than peripheral. Buying or selling a horse who goes on to fame and fortune; breeding a sales-topping yearling; serving on a board or panel that accomplishes something beneficial to the horse industry are as much matters of lucky placement as of any extraordinary skill or acumen.

Environmentally Sensitive Company

Horse Manure Removal

Fastrak Express, Inc.

Hy-Tech Mushroom Compost, Inc.

West Grove, PA Rising Sun, MD

15 Horse Minimum • Straw Only

(800) 529-2146 • (410) 658-0520

Certified Commercial Manure Broker

www.fastrakexpress.com

An example of circuitous luck involves my appointment, in 1996, to the Pennsylvania State Horse Racing Commission. Russell Jones had been on the commission for some years and decided to retire. My name had been put forward by some friends among the horse breeders, but I had a strong aversion to politics and, other than serving as a township supervisor, had no experience in government service. Governor Tom Ridge appointed another person to replace Jones, and I forgot about the matter. Some time later, and unbeknown to me, the governor's appointee balked when informed that neither he nor his wife could own and race horses in Pennsylvania during his term on the commission. He declined the appointment.

I had met the PASHRC chairman, F. Eugene "Fitz" Dixon Jr., once or twice through our friends Michael and D.D. Matz. Michael had ridden Dixon's show jumpers with great success and would go on to train winners for him on the flat. Dixon was such a great supporter of the Devon Horse Show that the main show ring is known as the Dixon Oval.

Shortly after the commission nominee declined the appointment, Ridge was the honored guest at Devon for the grand prix. Dixon and his wife, Edie, were dragooned into service to entertain the governor and during the evening Ridge mentioned his dilemma with respect to the commission appointment.

It has never been clear to me who mentioned my name to the other but, by the end of the jump off, I was a governor's nominee for a seat on the PASHRC, a seat I held for 13 years through three governors. I was approved by the Pennsylvania Senate June 26, 1996, Dixie's and my 25th wedding anniversary. This all occurred because some guy didn't want to stop racing, and we knew Michael and D.D., who knew Fitz Dixon, and the governor went to Devon. Go figure.

Even though Dixie and I had a long and successful career raising and selling Thoroughbred horses, several decisions we made early in our life together may have limited our climb to the highest echelons of the bloodstock business. Neither of us ever spent a day working on the backside of a racetrack or on a large commercial breeding farm. I came from a show-horse background and was introduced to Thoroughbreds

through my show-horse job with the Wetherill family, who raced here and in Europe. Dixie's experience was in three-day eventing and we both were lifers in the U.S. Pony Club. We still may be the only "A" Pony Clubbers married to each other.

We started our business with no Rolodex on a small, leased farm in Newtown Square, Pa. The Wetherills were the first, and only, clients upon which we launched our bloodstock enterprise.

I always felt strongly that we needed to own a farm. Having seen too many older horsemen with no savings and no retirement plan, I viewed farm ownership as the cure for that dilemma. In 1979, when we decided to buy a farm, our business plan called upon us to decide where to stake our claim. We couldn't afford land in the Radnor Hunt area where we were renting; we already had two children; our families were both in Pennsylvania; and we had a little bit of notoriety among the local horse community. Logic and what little experience we did have with Thoroughbreds argued that Kentucky was "where it's at." Instead, we followed our hearts and decided to make a go of it in Chester County, Pa. We never regretted the decision, but it definitely limited the scope of our business of buying and selling and raising Thoroughbreds.

I can't tell you the number of times that I have been told, "You do a great job, but we really feel that we need a Kentucky agent to sell our better horses. We'll still send you the horses for Timonium, but the rest are going to . . ." There are many fine agents in Kentucky, but we always felt we punched above our weight when we sold at Keeneland or Fasig-Tipton Kentucky.

Early on, when Windfields was still in Maryland, and Northern Dancer, The Minstrel and Deputy Minister stood there, seasonally, we would get fancy mares to breed to them. Those mares almost all returned to Kentucky after being pronounced in foal. Along with them, went our chance to sell the resultant foal. We only got to sell at Keeneland July once, a Lyphard filly who made $350,000, and our Saratoga offerings were well sold but generally in the lower half of the result sheets.

In 2004, when slot machines arrived in Pennsylvania, the business changed with respect to quantity. We were foaling 50-60 mares a year, but the quality did not really improve. We rode the wave but, as surrounding states developed their own slots-fueled programs, those heady numbers began to wane. Today, it's just hard to compete for quality horses with the juggernauts of Kentucky and New York.

Regrets, I've got a few. We never sold a million-dollar yearling; never even sold one for half a million. We never had our hands on a Kentucky Derby starter, let alone winner. Our only Breeders' Cup starter, Son of a Pistol, was a yearling who met us at the sale and we only had for two days.

On the plus side Dixie and I have a 53-year (and counting) marriage, two glorious children and their spouses and offspring. We lived on a beautiful farm in a beautiful part of the world and our lives were not defined by the Thoroughbred industry. We serve in local government and have made a real difference, particularly in the areas of agricultural and open-space preservation, and now we are able to enjoy the fruits of our labors.

Our early decisions may have damned us to be incurably small time but, to my mind, I don't regret any one of them. Not bad for a couple of Pony Club lifers. ■

EQUINE DISCOUNTS

Exclusive Savings for the Horse World!

odp BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

BIG ASS FANS

JOHN DEERE

SHERWIN WILLIAMS

FARMERS INSURANCE

Pets Best PET HEALTH INSURANCE

NTRA

As a member of NTRA,
you are eligible for these discounts

Call 866-678-4289 to start saving!
EquineDiscounts.com

@myequinediscounts

Maryland Horse®

May 2025 | Official publication of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association; Vol. 90, No. 5

Maryland Horse Breeders Association Inc.

321 Main Street
Reisterstown, MD 21136
410-252-2100
www.marylandthoroughbred.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Kent Allen Murray
President
Joseph P. "Josh" Pons
Vice-president
William K. Boniface
Secretary-treasurer
Cricket Goodall
Executive director
Talbot J. Albert IV*, Charles Blanford*, Brooke Bowman, Amy O. Burk, Henry S. "Tim" Clark III, Charles C. Fenwick Jr., Lisa Golden Hofstetter, Michael Horning, TK Kuegler, Grace Merryman, Gina Robb, Phil Schoenthal, Thomas J. Rooney, David Wade
**president appointed*

DIRECTORS EMERITUS
(served 18 years)
J. William Boniface, R. Thomas Bowman, King T. Leatherbury, Donald P. Litz Jr., Ann Merryman, Michael Pons, James B. Steele, Katharine M. Voss

ADVISORY COUNCIL
(past MHBA presidents)
Richard F. Blue Jr., J. William Boniface, William K. Boniface, Frank A. Bonsal, R. Thomas Bowman, Hal C.B. Clagett III, Michael Harrison DVM, King T. Leatherbury, J.W.Y. Martin Jr., Joseph P. Pons Jr., Michael Pons, James B. Steele, Katharine M. Voss, Robert B. White

Public invited to farm tour

By Ali Çetinok

In honor of the 150th running of the Preakness Stakes, Maryland's horse country rolls out the welcome mat. Sunday, May 11, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., the Maryland Horse Farm Tour invites the public to step beyond the racetrack and experience the peaceful pastures, dedicated caretakers and equine athletes that define the state's deep-rooted horse culture.

Presented as part of the Preakness Festival, the free, self-guided event is a collaborative effort by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, Maryland Racing Commission, Maryland Million Ltd., Maryland Department of Labor, Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Horse Industry Board. The tour spans 17 farms across Baltimore, Cecil, Frederick, Harford and Howard counties and promises visitors an intimate look at the Maryland-bred horses who make their marks on the racing world.

"The Maryland Horse Industry Board is proud to support this initiative, especially during the excitement of Preakness season," said Anne Litz, MHIB executive director. "While going to the races is thrilling, there's something incredibly special about experiencing the places where these horses are born, raised, trained, and eventually retire."

The farms on the tour represent every facet of Maryland's equine economy – from Northview Stallion Station, Bonita Farm and Willowdale, to Fair Hill Training Center and Select Breeders Services. You might even meet a future Preakness contender, still a foal by its mother's side.

"Visitors will meet the dedicated people who care for them every day with passion and love," Litz said. "We want to encourage people to look beyond the track and beyond the finish line."

The format is simple: families, fans and curious visitors sign up online at marylandhorse.com to receive access and directions to participating farms. A digital program provides an interactive map, key information and even highlights nearby agri-businesses, such as wineries, breweries, restaurants and farm shops.

"You drive yourself, spend as little or as much time as you'd like at each location, and enjoy what each farm has to offer," said Litz.

"It's a bit like visiting a beautiful park that just happens to feature Maryland-bred horses."

Staff will greet guests, answer questions and help visitors understand the daily rhythms of farm life – from mucking stalls to bottle-feeding foals.

Featured locations are Merryland Farm and U.S. Pony Racing, Oldfields School, Willowdale Farm, Second Chances Horse Farm, Equine Veterinary Care, the Fair Hill Training Center and Speical Events Zone, Northview Stallion Station, Select Breeders Services, Sycamore Hall Farm, Winbak Farm, The Foxie G Foundation, Atlanta Hall Farm, Bonita Farm, Foxhall Equine and Chanceland Farm.

"These sites represent every stage of a horse's life – from birth to retirement," Litz said. "They highlight the value of horses bred and raised right here in Maryland."

Josh Pons, third-generation horseman and co-owner of Country Life and Merryland, sees the day as an opportunity not just to celebrate the state's horse industry, but to sustain it.

"Opening up the farm gives us an opportunity to educate the people who live around these farms," Pons said. "Folks who enjoy horses and want to see Maryland's equine traditions carried on. It's truly a privilege."

He continued: "There's a racetrack, horses in training, mares, yearlings – every segment of a horse farm is represented. Our slogan is 'From beginning to winning', and it gives us a chance to explain why it's important to support the Maryland horse industry."

Pons also emphasized the economic engine behind the beauty.

"It's not just about raising horses – it's about all the jobs we support, the vendors we rely on," he said. "We're like the anchor store in a community. We buy hay, straw, feed. We need labor – horses require a lot of hands-on care. You can't raise horses through an internet portal. You have to feed them, touch them, take their temperatures, clean their stalls. There's so much that goes into just a routine day on a horse farm. That's what we're trying to show people."

Beyond the equine stars, the event is designed to be a wholesome and educational day out for all ages. Visitors are encouraged to bring the family and treat it as a Mother's Day weekend excursion through Maryland's countryside.

"After the tour, we've included a guide to local agri-businesses – great places to take your mom, whether it's for a glass of wine, a craft beer, some ice cream, or a nice meal at a local restaurant," Litz said. "It's a full experience."

And the impact of the event doesn't end when the day does. For Litz and others, it's about building connections that strengthen the state's rural and agricultural communities.

"Maryland is home to thousands of horses, and the economic impact runs into the billions of dollars," she said. "When one part of the industry thrives, it lifts the entire ecosystem – from feed suppliers and trainers to vets, grooms, and beyond."

As the Preakness Stakes reaches its 150th running, the Horse Farm Tour reminds Marylanders that greatness begins not under the bright lights of Pimlico, but in quiet paddocks, foaling stalls, and early morning gallops.

"There are probably a lot of young people out there who don't know there are job opportunities in the horse business – especially if they love animals and aren't afraid to work hard," Pons said. "It's an art."

He points to the popularity of Kentucky's Bluegrass tours as a model: "It builds goodwill. Opening the farm gates to the public shows people we're not just some farm up on a hill."

May 11, that hill becomes a bridge – from casual interest to passion, from curiosity to connection. Whether you're a lifelong racing fan or discovering the industry for the first time, the Maryland Horse Farm Tour offers something rare: a window into the world behind the wire.

To register for the tour or learn more, visit: marylandhorse.com/events. ❧

Maryland farm tours have long history

Opening horse farms to the public has been popular for decades.

One of the most attended came in April 1963, when the owners of 14 Maryland Thoroughbred farms opened their gates in a tour jointly sponsored by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association and Laurel Park. As was noted at the time, "the results were something to behold."

The tour drew more than 12,000 visitors, nearly half swarming Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt's Sagamore Farm. Pistorio Farm near Ellicott City reported 2,000 visitors. "They were the nicest group of people I ever saw,"said Mrs. Samuel M. Pistorio.

There was coverage in *The Washington Star* by racing writer Joe Kelly, who spoke with Harold Ferguson, manager of Sagamore Farm: "They all wanted to see Native Dancer first. There were a lot of kids, and it's surprising how little trouble we had, although one youngster did get nipped. But that was the only accident as far as I know."

Kelly wrote that another 500 drove to Chesapeake City to see Kelso at Woodstock Farm. "Kelso's visitors signed a guest book," said owner Allaire duPont.

MHBA general manager Snowden Carter reported: "The farm program was tremendously successful. The crowds were 10 times larger than expected and the turnout at Sagamore was staggering." ❧

Graded stakes performers boost Friesan Fire, Mosler

April 5 was a big day for the Country Life Farm stud barn as Quint's Brew, a 4-year-old son of Mosler, and Passion Rules, a 3-year-old son of Friesan Fire, ran big in graded stakes at Aqueduct.

Quint's Brew went off the favorite of seven in the Carter Stakes-G2, took the lead into the stretch, and was caught at the wire to miss by a neck to late-running Crazy Mason after 7 furlongs in 1:21.95. Finishing second in the $300,000 sprint earned $60,000 for breeders/owners Paul Berube, Karen Linnell and Heather Hunter, and pushed Quint's Brew's earnings this year to $225,000, the most of Mosler's current 32 starters.

Passion Rules, nominated to the Triple Crown by owner Calumet Farm and trainer Brad Cox, made his stakes debut in the $750,000 Wood Memorial-G2.

Undefeated in three starts, the bay colt bred by Charles and Cynthia McGinnes went wide on the first turn, but shifted to the rail down the backstretch. Passion Rules waited for room straightening into the stretch and ran strongly to the wire to finish third, earning $75,000. Rodriguez earned the win in 1:48.15, one of the fastest for 3-year-olds at 1⅛ miles this year.

Passion Rules earned 25 points toward a spot in the Kentucky Derby, just outside the top 20.

Passion Rules is one of 24 runners this year for Friesan Fire (through April 18), and his richest earner with $189,600.

The two stallions have made Country Life Farm in Bel Air their home since entering stud – Friesan Fire in 2012 and Mosler in 2017. They lead Maryland sires this year by average earnings per starter: Mosler with $20,343; Friesan Fire, $19,404. Mosler leads the state in black-type runners in 2025 (four); Friesan Fire is tied for second with Cupid and Great Notion, each with three.

A son of A.P. Indy, Friesan Fire stands this season for $1,000. The stud fee for Mosler (by War Front) is $2,500.

State's Thoroughbred industry gets special news treatment

The new Maryland Thoroughbred Partnership has launched an educational, marketing and public relations campaign to highlight the significance of the Thoroughbred industry in Maryland.

Established in early 2025, the MTP took the reins to help educate people in the state and across the region about the importance and significant economic impact of the $2.9 billion equine industry, underscoring Thoroughbred horse racing as a major sport and agricultural industry.

Recent interviews and local news profiles pushed by the MTP and its partners have appeared on WMAR and WBAL-TV newscasts and in the *Baltimore Business Journal* and *Baltimore Sun*. Subjects include jockey Forest Boyce; trainer Brittany Russell and her fan-favorite charge Post Time; and foalings at Country Life Farm.

Among other recent interviews are Jim Dresher, the owner of Glenangus Farm who helped spearhead the MTP; and Dr. Kathy Anderson, medical director at Fair Hill Training Center.

Visit MTP's marylandthoroughbredpartnership.com, follow on Facebook, and sign up for the newsletter to keep up with continuing MTP outreach.

Again! A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY for MD-BRED/MARYLAND-SIRED
$500,000 PREAKNESS BONUS
To a Maryland-Bred/Sired winner of the Preakness:
Owner $225,000 • Breeder $225,000 • Stallion $50,000
To a Maryland-Bred (not sired) winner of the Preakness:
Owner $225,000 • Breeder $225,000
To a Maryland-Sired (not bred) winner of the Preakness:
Owner $225,000 • Stallion $50,000
• Finishing second would receive 20% of bonus
• Finishing third would receive 10% of bonus
Maryland Horse.
Maryland: a foundation of greatness. A bright future ahead.
Learn more at MarylandThoroughbred.com

What's happening at the library?

The Maryland Horse Library and Education Center's third annual duplicate book sale takes place, along with an equine art mart, May 8-10 in Reisterstown.

In conjunction with the 150th Preakness celebration, the library will host a showing of the Eclipse Award-winning film *The Preakness: An American Classic,* which made its debut 25 years ago. Karin De Francis, executive producer of the film, will speak Friday evening, May 9, about what has been described as "a great retrospective – informative, interesting, wonderfully shot and edited and not just for race fans." All events are free.

Thursday, May 8 through Saturday, May 10 • 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Third annual duplicate book sale and inaugural art mart

A large collection of classic books, many out-of-print, as well as newer offerings will be available for purchase at bargain prices. Any and all equine topics are covered. Equine art – from framed prints to a variety of posters, and more – will also be for sale.

Thursday, May 8, 7 p.m. – Remembering Preakness winner Deputed Testamony

The evening celebrates Deputed Testamony, winner of the 1983 Preakness, and to date the last Maryland-bred to take home the Black-Eyed Susans. His jockey Donnie Miller and members of the Boniface family – who bred, owned and trained him – will talk about their experiences as winners of the Crown Jewel of Maryland racing. Also shown that evening will be the ABC Sports coverage of the race.

Friday, May 9, 7 p.m. – Documentary film *The Preakness: An American Classic* and talk with Karin De Francis and John Scheinman

In celebration of the 125th Preakness in 2000, Maryland Jockey Club executive and track co-owner Karin De Francis was a driving force in producing a documentary on Maryland's classic that included commentary from many local connections. The film made its debut during a special program at the Smithsonian Institution that May and was shown in July on WMAR-TV, for which it earned an Eclipse Award.

Prior to the film showing at the library May 9, longtime Preakness aficionado De Francis and Eclipse Award-winning writer John Scheinman will discuss the film and their recollections of the race.

Visit marylandhorse.com for more information on these and other events. ❧

Maryland Horse LIBRARY AND EDUCATION CENTER

Maryland-bred Stakes Winners

Ali Smith / Coady Photography

Future Is Now adds to success

Fresh off being honored at the Maryland Renaissance Awards April 11 as 2024 Maryland-bred champion older female and turf runner and Maryland-based female turf horse, Future Is Now made her 2025 debut at Keeneland April 13, and picked up right where she left off.

Racing for the family of late breeder/owner R. Larry Johnson, the 5-year-old daughter of Great Notion was last seen at Keeneland in October, winning the Franklin Stakes-G2. Trainer Mike Trombetta sent her back for the Giant's Causeway Stakes-G3 and she proved as good as ever.

Going off the slight second choice, she led through the opening furlongs, lost the lead briefly in the stretch to favorite Pandora's Gift (Ire), and dug in to fight to the wire, winning in a head bob. It was her fifth win in seven tries at 5½ furlongs on the turf – with additional stakes scores the Intercontinental-G2 and Smart and Fancy at Saratoga, along with the Franklin – and her eighth win from 15 starts overall. She earned $147,250 in her return, to increase her career earnings to $748,410.

Trombetta told the media about her preparation for her first start of the year: "You always worry that you're ready enough. I kept her up north [at Fair Hill] all winter. I watched her very closely and put plenty of time in her schedule in case we had bad weather, and although it was really cold, the winter did cooperate with us. We didn't really miss any works or anything, so we were able to do it."

Paco Lopez, aboard for all six of her starts since last May, five stakes wins, said: "She's a great filly. She can run anywhere and she's doing great. Michael told me, 'Paco, she's training super, she never missed a work.' She did it. I'm lucky today.

"[Taking the lead] was not my plan. I told Michael I didn't really want to make the lead. But she broke on top and nobody else made [the lead], so we had to take it. I waited and waited until she [Pandora's Gift] passed me, and then I told [Future is Now] to go and she finished very well. . ."

Out of the Bernardini mare Past as Prelude, a half-sister to six winners, including stakes winner and stakes sire Street Magician, Future Is Now is a year-older half-sister to 2024 Maryland-bred champion 3-year-old filly and 2025 stakes winner Call Another Play (by Audible). The family, tracing back to Johnson's foundation mare Ran's Chick, has also produced 2025 Grade 2 winner Mindframe, runner-up in last year's Belmont Stakes-G1 and Haskell Stakes-G1. ❧

Safe Trust wins stakes via disqualification

Jim McCue

The road to the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes-G2 through Maryland included Laurel Park's $100,000 Beyond the Wire Stakes, a 1-mile test for 3-year-old fillies March 22. The race provided no shortage of controversy, but resulted in a Mosler-sired exacta as Safe Trust, trained by Jose Corrales, was promoted to first by disqualification as Moon Cache, a 17-1 longshot, was taken down after moving out several paths and impeding Safe Trust in the stretch.

Seeking her first stakes win after hitting the board in all four prior attempts, Safe Trust came in off two Laurel starts in February – a win in a 6-furlong first-level allowance and a second behind Onyx Ten in the Wide Country at 7 furlongs just two weeks later.

Biding her time well off the pace set by New York runner Central Casting, Safe Trust saved ground on the turn and swung five-wide entering the stretch, taking dead aim on Moon Cache, who had battled to the front by midstretch.

Closing to Moon Cache's outside, Safe Trust drew even as they approached the wire and missed by a nose after 1:39.03.

Following the photo finish, an objection was posted by Safe Trust's rider Denis Araujo, as replays showed that Moon Cache moved out and bumped Safe Trust near the wire. After a short review, the stewards reversed the order to give Safe Trust the win.

A Barak Farm homebred, Safe Trust won for the third time in 10 starts and, along with three seconds and three thirds, pushed her earnings to $200,525 (through April 14). Last year she finished third in Colonial Downs' Keswick in her stakes debut. Two starts later she was third in the Maryland Million Lassie, and then came back with a second in the Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship behind regional star Caprice.

Safe Trust is the second foal out of Barak Farm homebred Annie Trust, an unraced daughter of Super Ninety Nine from the family of Grade 1 winners See How She Runs and Canadian champion Hasten to Add. ❧

Kennebec sets course record in Cotton Fitzsimmons Handicap

In the $50,000 Cotton Fitzsimmons Handicap, a 1-mile test that attracted eight older runners over the Turf Paradise turf course March 22, 7-year-old Kennebec delivered a powerful late rally to secure his second win in three starts on the year in record-setting fashion.

Trained by Jose Silva and ridden by Fausto Da Silva, Kennebec settled off the early pace of :22.99, :45.91, 1:09.38 and 1:21.83 before launching a move around the far turn. The favorite surged past tiring rivals and held off a late bid from Saline River to win by 2½ lengths in 1:33.75 over the firm going, eclipsing the previous course mark by more than .25 seconds.

Kennebec was bred by Stuart Grant's The Elkstone Group and sold for $27,000 to Chris Drakos out of the Brookdale Sales consignment at the 2019 Keeneland September yearling sale. The son of Lookin At Lucky was sent to California, where Drakos campaigned him with trainer Ryan Hanson for his first five starts, including a Santa Anita victory, before he was claimed for $16,000 in April 2021. He was claimed again, this time for $25,000, at Los Alamitos, July 3, 2021 on behalf of Sergio Salguero.

The gelding raced in the barn of trainer Jonathan Wong until summer 2023 when he was transferred to trainer Ruby Thomas. In March 2024, he was transferred yet again to his current trainer, who has sent the bay out to top-three finishes in all 10 starts since. He recorded his first career stakes win in last April's Wildcat at Turf Paradise, and came back to win the Hasta La Vista next out, and recorded three allowance wins. Owned by Kirk Sutherland since last fall, Kennebec has a record of 38-13-10-6 (through April 14) and career earnings of $369,843.

Kennebec is out of the Maryland-bred Gators N Bears mare Thisdanseistaken. Grant claimed Thisdanseistaken, a 10-time winner and earner of $258,910, for $25,000 on the Black-Eyed Susan undercard in May 2015, and retired the stakes-placed mare that fall. Kennebec is the second foal out of Thisdanseistaken; her first is $128,045-earner One Last Trial (by Tonalist), a winner of four of 13 starts. ❧

Registration questions?
Membership inquiries?
Call the MHBA office 410.252.2100 x 129

Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run
in January 2025 at Maryland tracks

Maryland-bred top earners in 2025

(through April 18)

1. Quint's Brew	$225,000	11. Call Another Play	$82,320
2. Passion Rules	189,600	12. Takethemoneyhoney	81,770
3. Safe Trust	157,280	13. Heard On Thestreet	81,490
4. Future Is Now	147,250	14. Wise Miss	80,451
5. Barbadian Runner	127,245	15. S S Sinatra	80,370
6. Onyx Ten	123,000	16. Stickwiththecolors	78,810
7. Mindframe	120,280	17. Secret Zipper	71,500
8. Green Eyed Monster	100,870	18. Viennese Waltz	71,190
9. Speedyness	92,000	19. Hittheroadjak	70,260
10. Rominski	83,760	20. Slam Notion	67,620

Geisha Stakes

January 18. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, fillies and mares, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 1 mi. 7 competed. (Closed with 17 nominations.) Winner: CALL ANOTHER PLAY, by Audible. Breeder bonus: Estate of R. Larry Johnson ($10,125). Stallion bonus: None. Second: ONCOURTCOMMENTATOR, by Uncle Mo. Breeder bonus: The Elkstone Group LLC ($3,375). Stallion bonus: None. Third: TOO MANY KISSES, by Arrogate. Breeder bonus: Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: None.

Jennings Handicap

January 18. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 4-year-olds and up, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland sired. 1 mi. 9 competed. (Closed with 16 nominations.) Winner: QUINT'S BREW, by Mosler. Breeder bonus: Paul W. Berube, Karen Linnell and Spinnaker Hill Farm ($10,125). Stallion bonus: Mosler Syndicate ($3,375). Second: HITTHEROADJAK, by Kobe's Back. Breeder bonus: Bonita Farm ($3,375). Stallion bonus: Bonita Farm ($1,125). Third: CIRCLE P, by Speightster. Breeder bonus: Marathon Farm Inc. ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: None.

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Sacred Thunder: Jan. 25, 9th race, $2,250.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc. and Copper Penny Stables—Angel Art: Jan. 24, 6th race, $1,192.50.

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Isabella's Glory: Jan. 25, 4th race, $3,915. Shkhara Fire: Jan. 17, 8th race, $2,205; Jan. 25, 8th race, $4,500. ($10,620)

Barlar LLC—Align: Jan. 24, 1st race, $495.

Bell Gable Stable—Sir Chance a Lot: Jan. 26, 5th race, $2,970/$990. ($3,960)

Paul W. Berube, Karen Linnell and Spinnaker Hill Farm—Quint's Brew: Jan. 18, 6th race, $10,125.

Richard F. Blue Jr.—Chattolanee Spring: Jan. 24, 3rd race, $1,485.

Bonita Farm—Hittheroadjak: Jan. 18, 6th race, $3,375.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Not a Bother: Jan. 17, 7th race, $1,102.50.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Estate of R. Larry Johnson—Up Against It: Jan. 17, 5th race, $540.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Michael Bishop and Milton P. Higgins III—Still Game: Jan. 31, 1st race, $855.

Bowman and Higgins Stable and Cary Frommer—Monday Morning Qb: Jan. 18, 5th race, $3,915.

BTR Racing Inc.—Buds Island: Jan. 24, 1st race, $2,970/$990. ($3,960)

Kim and Kelly Campbell—Esroh: Jan. 17, 8th race, $1,102.50.

CandyLand Farm—Rhumjar: Jan. 18, 2nd race, $540.

Wes Carter—El Divino Nino: Jan. 24, 5th race, $495.

Clover Hill Racing LLC—Enabler: Jan. 31, 3rd race, $1,170. Super Needy: Jan. 24, 5th race, $990. ($2,160)

Sam Cockburn—Tuff Luck: Jan. 24, 1st race, $990.

Cordelia Stables LLC—Krissi N: Jan. 17, 3rd race, $5,535.

Cottonwood Stable LLC—Seven's Eleven: Jan. 31, 8th race, $2,520.

Country Life Farm and Moon Vision Broodmare LLC—Creed's Vision: Jan. 25, 6th race, $922.50.

Dark Hollow Farm—Stormy Hollow: Jan. 31, 5th race, $495. Sweet No No: Jan. 18, 9th race, $495. Wikolia Lady: Jan. 24, 3rd race, $742.50. ($1,732.50)

Dark Hollow Farm and Hillwood Stable LLC—Silver Trinket: Jan. 17, 3rd race, $1,845.

John C. Davison—War Master: Jan. 31, 7th race, $2,205.

William and Mary Gale—Sweetheart Moon: Jan. 18, 1st race, $495.

Grandview Stable Inc. and Dominick J. Juno—Dolice Vita: Jan. 17, 5th race, $3,240.

Michael J. Harrison DVM—Cluck Cluck: Jan. 31, 1st race, $1,710.

Hickory Ridge Farm—All the Hardways: Jan. 25, 7th race, $2,205.

Michael and Debbie Horning—Princess Lucia: Jan. 25, 2nd race, $2,970.

Housatonic Bloodstock—Drink Deeply: Jan. 17, 9th race, $495.

Jagger Inc.—Little Lance: Jan. 24, 8th race, $2,160.

Estate of R. Larry Johnson—Call Another Play: Jan. 18, 4th race, $10,125. Quit Quay: Jan. 17, 2nd race, $495. ($10,620)

Karmac Stables LLC—Prado Road: Jan. 24, 4th race, $2,205.

Owen Kiernan—Ade: Jan. 26, 6th race, $3,510.

Carl Lanier—Freeze the Fire: Jan. 18, 8th race, $4,500. She's No Uncle: Jan. 17, 3rd race, $922.50. ($5,422.50)

Dr. Frances Berkeley Luther and Berkeley Springs Farm—Superlastingsecret: Jan. 31, 9th race, $675.

Marathon Farm Inc.—Circle P: Jan. 18, 6th race, $1,687.50.

Daniel E. Marconi—Jasiel: Jan. 24, 8th race, $1,080.

Mikelle Farm—True Sunshine: Jan. 31, 4th race, $2,700.

Murmur Farm—Bold Diversion: Jan. 26, 10th race, $2,970/$990. Bondiva: Jan. 17, 7th race, $2,205. Imperial Spy: Jan. 26, 5th race, $495. ($6,660)

No Guts No Glory Farm—Banditsgoldenchild: Jan. 24, 2nd race, $675. Bigdaddysboy: Jan. 17, 5th race, $1,080. ($1,755)

David W. Palmer—Kissling: Jan. 26, 2nd race, $1,170.

A. Leonard Pineau—Crossland: Jan. 24, 8th race, $6,480.

Thomas J. and Tara L. Rooney—Amazing Bernie: Jan. 17, 6th race, $742.50.

Eric A. Rizer and Nancy M. Rizer—Slam Notion: Jan. 24, 7th race, $2,205.

Frank T. Sample—Onyx Ten: Jan. 25, 8th race, $13,500. Secret Zipper: Jan. 31, 7th race, $6,615. ($20,115)

Shamrock Farm—Barbadian Runner: Jan. 25, 9th race, $13,500.

Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Looking for Water: Jan. 17, 1st race, $810. Spencerian: Jan. 18, 7th race, $2,250. ($3,060)

Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Addy's Laddy T N T: Jan. 17, 4th race, $450. Bjorn: Jan. 25, 7th race, $1,102.50. Lovely Charm: Jan. 26, 4th race, $6,615. ($8,167.50)

The Elkstone Group LLC—Oncourtcommentator: Jan. 18, 4th race, $3,375.

Thornmar Farm LLC—Forgotten Gift: Jan. 31, 4th race, $450. Little Bit Risky: Jan. 26, 2nd race, $585. ($1,035)

Thornmar Farm and Tim Keefe—Too Many Kisses: Jan. 18, 4th race, $1,687.50.

2500 Determined Holdings—Daring Venture: Jan. 25, 6th race, $5,535.

Walter N. Vieser II—Severn Run: Jan. 26, 5th race, $990.

Katharine Merryman Voss—Viennese Waltz: Jan. 26, 4th race, $2,205.

Maureen Wade—Buoyant: Jan. 31, 3rd race, $3,510.

Susan Wantz—A Lotta Moxie: Jan. 25, 2nd race, $990.

John E. Williamson III—Stickwiththecolors: Jan. 17, 7th race, $6,615.

Stallion bonuses

ALLIANCE (Align: Jan. 24, 1st race, $165): Lawrence Karp.

BANDBOX (Forgotten Gift: Jan. 31, 4th race, $150. Seven's Eleven: Jan. 31, 8th race, $840): Northview Stallion Station—$990.

BARBADOS (Barbadian Runner: Jan. 25, 9th race, $4,500): Shamrock Farm.

BLOFELD (Bold Diversion: Jan. 26, 10th race, $990. Bondiva: Jan. 17, 7th race, $735. Imperial Spy: Jan. 26, 5th race, $165): Blofeld Syndicate—$1,890.

DESPITE THE ODDS (Up Against It: Jan. 17, 5th race, $180): Estate of R. Larry Johnson.

DIVINING ROD (Enabler: Jan. 31, 3rd race, $390. Looking for Water: Jan. 17, 1st race, $270. Stickwiththecolors: Jan. 17, 7th race, $2,205): Divining Rod Syndicate—$2,865.

FRIESAN FIRE (Freeze the Fire: Jan. 18, 8th race, $1,500. Shkhara Fire: Jan. 17, 8th race, $735; Jan. 25, 8th race, $1,500): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$3,735.

GOLDEN LAD (Addy's Laddy T N T: Jan. 17, 4th race, $150. Amazing Bernie: Jan. 17, 6th race, $247.50. Banditsgoldenchild: Jan. 24, 2nd race, $225. Buds Island: Jan. 24, 1st race, $990. Jasiel: Jan. 24, 8th race, $360. Prado Road: Jan. 24, 4th race, $735. Quit Quay: Jan. 17, 2nd race, $165): Golden Lad Syndicate—$2,872.50.

GREAT NOTION (Esroh: Jan. 17, 8th race, $367.50. Little Bit Risky: Jan. 26, 2nd race, $195. Not a Bother: Jan. 17, 7th race, $367.50. Slam Notion: Jan. 24, 7th race, $735. Stormy Hollow: Jan. 31, 5th race, $165): Great Notion Syndicate—$1,830.

HOLY BOSS (Crossland: Jan. 24, 8th race, $2,160. Rhumjar: Jan. 18, 2nd race, $180. Sacred Thunder: Jan. 25, 9th race, $750): Holy Boss Syndicate—$3,090.

HOPPERTUNITY (Ade: Jan. 26, 6th race, $1,170): Northview Stallion Station Inc.

IMAGINING (Angel Art: Jan. 24, 6th race, $397.50. Bigdaddysboy: Jan. 17, 5th race, $360. El Divino Nino: Jan. 24, 5th race, $165. Little Lance: Jan. 24, 8th race, $720. Monday Morning Qb: Jan. 18, 5th race, $1,305): Imagining Syndicate—$2,947.50.

IRISH WAR CRY (Lovely Charm: Jan. 26, 4th race, $2,205. Spencerian: Jan. 18, 7th race, $750): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$2,955.

KOBE'S BACK (Hittheroadjak: Jan. 18, 6th race, $1,125): Bonita Farm.

LONG RIVER (Chattolanee Spring: Jan. 24, 3rd race, $495): Long River Syndicate.

MADEFROMLUCKY (Tuff Luck: Jan. 24, 1st race, $330): Madefromlucky Syndicate.

MOSLER (Quint's Brew: Jan. 18, 6th race, $3,375. Sir Chance a Lot: Jan. 26, 5th race, $990): Mosler Syndicate—$4,365.

STREET MAGICIAN (Onyx Ten: Jan. 25, 8th race, $4,500): Estate of R. Larry Johnson.

SUPER NINETY NINE (Super Needy: Jan. 24, 5th race, $330. Superlastingsecret: Jan. 31, 9th race, $225): Country Life Farm—$555.

UNCLE LINO (She's No Uncle: Jan. 17, 3rd race, $307.50): Northview Stallion Station.

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **May 2025** -

In This Issue

Book'em Danno comes back running but no Dubai trip

Rutgers Equine Science Center reminds you to check your pastures for poisonous plants

Rutgers Equine Science Center's Equine Pasture Management: "A Year-Round Approach"

TBANJ Membership Application

Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey

Officers

President
Rory Huston

Vice President
Janet Laszio

Treasurer
Lawrence Fleming

Secretary
Joe Coles

Board of Trustees

James Frangella
Charles Kromann
Anthony R. Margotta Jr.
Nicholas Sacco
Diane Simoncini

Executive Director
Michael Campbell

FOLLOW or LIKE **NJBREDS** *on.*

Book'em Danno comes back running but no Dubai trip

by Bill Finley

MADDIE BECKER / COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

The latter part of 2024 was not kind to New Jersey-bred star Book'em Danno. The winner of the Grade 1 Woody Stephens, he lost his final three races, which included a fifth-place finish, beaten 5½ lengths, in the Cigar Mile-G2 at Aqueduct. That was one of the worst races of his career.

Ninety-seven days after the Cigar he made his return in the $100,000 Boston Handicap at Colonial Downs, where he looked like the old Danno. Even though the race, which was restricted to Virginia-bred or Virginia certified horses, scratched down to three horses, the two that were left as competitors to Book'em Danno

had solid credentials. Repo Rocks is a Grade 3 winner who came into the race with $994,246 in earnings, and Celtic Contender is a multiple restricted stakes winner at Laurel.

For the opening half-mile, the race was a battle as the three were never separated by more than a length. Book'em Danno held the lead at the eighth-pole, which is where he went into high gear, winning by 2½ lengths under Paco Lopez. Repo Rocks was second. He earned a 96 Beyer figure.

"I know it scratched down to a small field but they were the three main players entered in the race," trainer Derek Ryan said. "We got what we wanted out of it. They ran fast but good horses will do that. The other two were both stakes winners, legitimate hard-knocking horses. I got more out of it than I was looking for. We got a perfect trip, a perfect everything. After his last couple of races I wanted to get a win."

Prior to the Boston, Ryan had said he was using the race as a prep for the April 5 races in Dubai. They were considering the $2 million Group 1 Dubai Golden Shaheen at 6 furlongs and the $1 million Godolphin Mile-G2. But Ryan decided that he didn't wanted to come back with just three weeks of rest.

"He's up here in Ocala, rolling around in a round pen right now," he said in March. "We're not going to Dubai. It's too close. I'd have to ship next Sunday. It's three weeks and I don't like to run back in three weeks. Then you miss the early summer races here. Right now, it just doesn't fit in."

The hope is that by skipping the races in Dubai, Book'em Danno will be set up for a strong 2025 U.S. campaign and, unlike last year, finish up while on the top of his game.

"Even in the Cigar Mile, we thought he didn't run his race, but if you look at his Thoro-Graph numbers, he was running 1s in most of his races. The Cigar was probably a little slower than his other races but I think it was more a function of it being at the end of hard campaign," co-owner Jay Briscione said. "He was also down on the rail and had traffic issues. He lost to Locked, one of the best handicap horses in the country. So maybe it was more a function of the competition than his wearing down."

The Boston served its purpose. He got the win, he got back on track and he should be ready for tougher assignments ahead.

"I picked out the Virginia race early on because it looked like a good jumping off point," Briscione said. "Before they put out the condition book I called and asked if they were going to write any restricted races and they said that they were. That ticked up our antenna and we decided on that race for his comeback. The race worked out for very well."

Briscione said that Book'em Danno's races this year will likely be five or six weeks apart. If they follow that schedule, the Grade 1 Churchill Downs Stakes on Derby Day could be where the son of Bucchero makes his next start.

"The goal is to be back at Saratoga for the True North and for the Forego," he said. "If there's something in between we'll see. It just depends on his conditioning and how he comes out of his races. And then we'll probably run in New York in the fall, maybe in the Vosburgh. Derek seems to think he wants to go longer. Whether he gets back to a mile I don't know."

Briscione, one of six partners who race under the name of Atlantic Six Racing LLC, said that his group has received several offers to purchase Book'em Danno. But they are not interested.

"You never want to get ahead of yourself in this sport," he said. "We know we have a once-in-a-lifetime chance with this horse. We've turned down offers for him. We said, 'What are we going to do, take the money and try to by another him?' Most likely that's not going to happen. We are enjoying this immensely. We realize we have caught lightening in a bottle."

And all signs point to a productive 2025.

"You don't know what he's going to be from 2 to 3 and 3 to 4, but the way he came around, It looks like we are in a good position," Briscione said. "Derek has done a tremendous job with this horse. Just to be as consistent on the sheets as he has, that's been pretty incredible. If he moves forward even a little but that would put him in every race. But we don't have to bang heads every time. There's a lot of low hanging fruit out there. You have to weigh the risks and the rewards."

The win was the seventh from 12 starts for Book'em Danno, whose career earnings stand at $1,098,125. A two-time stakes winner at 2 and three-time stakes winner at 3, the gelding is just 4 and has not had a hard campaign. Could it be that we have yet to see his best?

Rutgers Equine Science Center reminds you to check your pastures for poisonous plants

There's hope that spring is right around the corner! Maybe it's wishful thinking, but horses are shedding out their winter coats which means the days are getting longer. Spring will bring fresh green grass along with it. Lurking among these juicy shoots may be some plants that are harmful to your horse. It's never a bad idea to review poisonous plants and check your pasture for them.

Good pasture management is one of your best defenses against those lurking plants. Despite all your best efforts, you

might still end up with some unwanted plants in your pasture. Because of this, it can be a good idea to take a walk through your pasture to check for these plants. There are some plants that only grow in certain regions of the world. Because of this you'll want to be familiar with and find resources that are specific to your geographic location to help you in identifying any potentially dangerous plants in your pasture. After doing some browsing through extension publications, it looks like there are some plants that are fairly common across a number of geographic locations, especially within the United States.

There's not just one substance that makes a plant poisonous. There are a number of different chemical compounds that make plants toxic to animals. For an example, a class of compounds called alkaloids are what makes plants in the nightshade family toxic, while its glycosides that make wild cherries toxic.

The symptoms associated with poisoning vary because there are so many different compounds which could be causing the problem. These symptoms can range all the way from mild irritation or sickness to death. The symptoms and severity of the symptoms are also dependent on how much of the plant an animal consumed and what part of the plant the animal consumed. Some plants concentrate the poisonous compounds in their seeds while other will have higher concentrations in their leaves or stems.

If you suspect your horse has eaten a poisonous plant, you need to contact your veterinarian immediately. They will be able to provide supportive care and recommend the best course of action.

You should also save the plant that you think your horse nibbled on as this can be used in helping to diagnose the problem. Don't forget that these poisonous plants can also be found in your horse's hay. If you're not finding anything in the pasture, you may want to take a look at the hay.

The next time you're out walking through the pasture to fetch your horse, take a few minutes to notice the plants growing under your feet. It's also a good idea to routinely walk your pasture with the purpose of checking for poisonous plants. You'll want to be sure you check those fence lines as well! There are plenty of plants that like to lurk along the edges of the pasture and escape your notice.

Rutgers Equine Science Center's Equine Pasture Management: "A Year-Round Approach"

Robert Mickel, Regional Livestock Agent
Reviewed by Carey Williams, Ph.D., Extension Specialist in Equine Management

Introduction

Pasture management is an evolving dynamic system requiring care and supervision year-round. Equine practitioners often expect their pastures to provide areas for exercise, training, and forage production, without providing adequate levels of plant management to obtain these goals and expectations. Pasture management is not a one-shot deal, but should be regarded as a system in constant fluctuation. Equine practitioners need to assess pasture management much as they do horse management, relationship to nutrition, grooming, eventing, breed selection, health care, rest/recuperation, and overall general equine common sense.

Nutrition

Pastures, much like horses, need a balanced diet if they are to attain optimal growth and performance. Unfortunately though, pastures quite often are left to fend for themselves until such time as they either become an eyesore or have little or no stand utility. When meeting their horses' nutritional demands, producers go all out in balancing horses' diets by using prescribed rations and feeds. Reaching the same level of management for the pasture should be a goal of equine practitioners. To achieve the same level for their pastures, growers need to begin by taking a soil test at least every other year, if not every year, to monitor nutritional needs. Nutrition requirements for pH and plant growth are essential if optimal growth and performance are desired. Much like the ration for a horse, a balanced diet for pastures goes very far in assisting in overall performance and forage production. Pastures with an average pH of 6.5 (or a range of 6.0-7.0) will allow for maximum nutrient utilization for optimal pasture growth and production. Fertilize pastures according to the seasons and expected performance demands. Apply fertilizer based upon soil test results to maximize pasture potentials. Applications split throughout the pasture season encourage initial spring growth, regenerative summer growth, and, most important, fall root strengthening and subsequent winter protection.

Grooming

Grooming pastures is another essential criterion of successful pasture management and subsequent plant and forage growth. Once pastures are grazed to adequate levels (3-4 inches), remove horses and then clip or mow,

simultaneously drag, and fertilize. The mowing will cut off uneaten vegetation (forages and weeds) and will be extremely beneficial for regenerating new plant growth. This new growth will be more palatable and nutritious for successive pasturing in an applied rotation practice.

Dragging pastures with commercial tine or chain drags, or even with home-made drag designs, will help break up manure deposits and aerate the sod or thatch cover. Depending on each grower's situation, the rotation of use should be done on a four- to five-week schedule.

The size of the pasture and the related stocking needs will determine the rotational schedule in conjunction with weather conditions, nutrient practices, and the pasture quality. Stocking rates will have a tremendous impact on pastures, as will the eventing use of that pasture.

One horse per acre should be a common goal for pasturing success in much of New Jersey. When combined with larger equine numbers, intensive grazing of one or more horses per acre can be achieved in an integrated pasture-rotation system. If the pasture is used for other reasons, i.e., turnout, exercise, and for various eventing/training, the relative success of the pasture will be impeded accordingly.

Seed Variety

Pasture forage species and blend selections should be analyzed, much like matching equine breeds to the task or specific job you want the horse to do. You wouldn't generally pick a standardbred for dressage, so in parallel you would not plant alfalfa in high-traffic exercise paddocks. For general purposes it is best to select a mix of grasses and legumes that provide pasturing needs throughout the growing season.

Cool-season species, such as timothy, perennial ryegrass, bromegrass, bluegrass, reed canary grass, and orchard grass provide early grazing in spring and early summer. They will also provide grazing when cooler temperatures arrive in fall. These grasses perform adequately when managed properly and provide partial pasture during the summer months. Cool-season grasses in our area generally flower or bloom by mid-May and continue into early June. At this time they tend to mature and go to seed, producing coarse stalky forage that horses generally will not eat. Mowing at this time is critical, but generally should be done before the plants reach this stage of maturity.

Warm-season species will continue to grow and bloom during the hotter, drier summer months if properly grazed, fertilized, and clipped. Within this grouping are legumes (clovers, trefoils, and vetches) that mature with the cool-season varieties, but offer continued regrowth during summer and into early fall under proper management.

Rest-Rotation-Recuperation

Pastures, not unlike horses, need rest and recuperation if they are to maximize production goals. Rest for a pasture will reduce the stress from equine traffic and allow the forages to recuperate and establish new growth. Rotational goals should allow plants to reestablish new leaf growth for photosynthesis. Without rest the pasture's regenerative process will not respond well to fertilization and water efficiently. Proper pasture health care, not unlike equine health care, is essential for maximum production. Pastures may also need insect, disease, and/or weed controls based on diagnosis by a specialist. If left untreated, infested pastures will be less productive and possibly may even die out. The higher the stress factor placed upon the pasture, the greater the chance for poor performance and production.

THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY

Membership Application

Member Information

NAME _____ SS#/FEDERAL I.D.# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ COUNTY _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Membership Categories

☐ Breeder — A breeder member shall be a person who owns the required interest in a broodmare or registered stallion domiciled in New Jersey; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. A breeder member shall have voting rights.

☐ Owner — An owner member shall be a person who owns a registered New Jersey- bred; who submits an application for membership, and pays the membership dues. An owner member will not have voting rights.

☐ Associate — An associate member is a person who is interested in owning, breeding, or racing horses in the State of New Jersey or in fostering economic activity through the breeding, ownership and/or racing of horses in the State of New Jersey. An associate member will not have voting rights.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Membership Dues

A check or money order for $100.00 must accompany this form. Spouses are encouraged to join the **TBANJ** under joint membership status. This fee would total $150.00 per couple. Each spouse must fill out a separate form to accompany the payment. Membership will be effective upon receipt and will be in force each calendar year and must be renewed annually.

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

May 2025

President's message

It's baby season. Let me know what you have.

I am Spot Lighting this month's baby, a Palomino colt belonging to Steve and Linda Epley. Look at those legs. Congratulations on your healthy boy! We wish you the best.

North Carolina is starting to grow its membership. We look forward to a brighter and larger future for NC.

Hitting the Board

March 13 – April 4, 2025

Date	*Horse*	*Track*	*NCTA Connection*	*Finish*
13-Mar	MAC TO MOORE	Turfway Park	Bred by William Thompson MAPLE LEAF FARM	WINNER!
13-Mar	Raise a Ruskus	Charles Town	Bred & owned by Clint Lowry	3rd
15-Mar	FLAT OUT FLYING	Aqueduct	Bred by Beth Muirhead & Frank Coniglio	WINNER!
21-Mar	Tiz Sweet Emotion	Turfway Park	Bred & Owned by Denise Walsh	2nd
21-Mar	Rockaway Reef	Turfway Park	Bred by Denise Walsh	2nd
26-Mar	HARTFUL HOPE	Mahoning Valley	Bred by Art Bauer; owned by George Ekherdt	WINNER!
27-Mar	MOM'S MARTINI	Gulfstream Park	Owned by Dan Shea - Shea D Boy's Stable	WINNER!
27-Mar	Cayenne Creek	Charles Town	Bred by Clint Lowry	2nd

Race Results

MAC TO MOORE – Winner at Turfway Park, March 13; 6 furlongs on all weather track. Final time 1:12.51. Raced to the turn, rallied through the stretch, ran to the wire.

FLAT OUT FLYING – Winner at Aqueduct, March 15; 1 mile on the dirt. Final time 1:39.56. Chased along the inside, three-wide across the track behind the top two. Under urging at the three-eighth-marker, five wide into the upper stretch, took command at the sixteenth pole and edged clear to the finish.

HARTFUL HOPE – Winner at Mahoning Valley, March 26; 6 furlongs on the dirt. Final time 1:13.20. Urged to set the pace down the backstretch, rallied to the lead on the turn, opened a clear turning for home and drew off in a hand ride.

MOM'S MARTINI – Winner at Gulfstream, March 27; 1 mile, 70 yards on the all-weather track. Final time 1:41.30. Bumped at the start, pressed the pace two wide, took over at the three-eighth pole, cleared in upper stretch.

REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR MEMBERSHIP FORMS TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE *MID-ATLANTIC THOROUGHBRED*

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

(336) 622-3089
ncthoroughbred.com
ncthoroughbred@gmail.com
436 Sam Lowe Road
Siler City, NC 27344

***Bonnie Herring,** president; **Linda Epley,** Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer*
*Directors: **Arlee Arkofa, Caroline Cooper, Vince Mathews, Chris Stiller***

North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME_____SPOUSE_____

FARM_____

MAILING ADDRESS_____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

E-MAIL_____

PHONE: HOME_____CELL_____WORK_____

☐Jr. MEMBER - AGE 21 UNDER @ -0 ☐FARM @ $80.00 ☐CORPORATE SPONSOR @ $250.00
☐SPONSOR @ $140.00
☐INDIVIDUAL @ $55.00
☐NON-PROFIT HORSE ASSOCIATIONS @ $20.00(covers cost of magazines)

Membership includes subscriptions to Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred Magazine

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Involvement in the Thoroughbred Industry
(Please check any or all pertaining to you)

☐Breeder☐Racing☐ Steeplechase ☐Boarding☐Foaling
☐Lay-ups☐Race Training☐Racing Fan ☐Showing ☐Show Training
☐Hunter/Jumper ☐Eventing☐Dressage☐Pleasure ☐Other_____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **N.C.T.A.**
MAIL WITH COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: **Bonnie Herring, 436 Sam Lowe Road, Siler City, NC 27344**

YOUR NAME OR FARM NAME_____

HORSES IN TRAINING - 2025

Please list the horses you have BRED or OWN that are in training or racing. The Association will put them into our stable on Daily Racing Form. We will keep up with them through this medium and have news for the association and for the Mid-Atlantic. We will only use horses that finish in the money.

This will let us know what our members are doing on the racing front and inform everyone about your successes.

I will still have to trust you to keep us informed regarding the breeding. I love receiving news on how the horses are doing, who you are breeding to, and how you did at the sales. It is hard to find the time to sit down and send me this information, BUT PLEASE TRY.

Please take the time to fill this out for your racing stock. Please list all horses, even the ones I already have, so I can keep our stable updated. Use another page if you need more room.

Bred/Own/Both

HORSE'S NAME_____DAM_____DOB____ ☐☐☐
HORSE'S NAME_____DAM_____DOB____ ☐☐☐
HORSE'S NAME_____DAM_____DOB____ ☐☐☐
HORSE'S NAME_____DAM_____DOB____ ☐☐☐
HORSE'S NAME_____DAM_____DOB____ ☐☐☐

Mail to: Bonnie Herring
NCTA
436 Sam Lowe Road
Siler City, NC 27344

Or send via E-mail at:
ncthoroughbred@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

May 2025
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

VISIT PABRED.COM

- **Racing and breeding news**
- **PA-Bred entries/results**
- **Rules, regulations, forms**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Brian N. Sanfratello
Executive Secretary
execsec@pabred.com

Vicky Schowe
Asst. Exec. Sec.

701 E. Baltimore Pike, Ste. E
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-444-1050
www.pabred.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gregory C. Newell, PE
Vice President: Douglas Black
Secretary: Deanna Manfredi
Treasurer: Katherine Rightmyer-O'Brien

Mike Chovanes VMD
Peter Giangiulio
Kathryn Goldenberg
Robert Graham
Justine Howell
Roger E. Legg
Elizabeth Merryman
Brian Schartz
Richard Simoff
Vincenzo Tucciarone Sr.

Retirement? Not So Much for Rich Miller!

By Nikki Sherman

When Rich Miller sold his longtime farm in 2019, that was supposed to be the start of his retirement. Instead, it was the beginning of a full-fledged breeding and racing operation that dwarfs his prior setup and is now one of the biggest breeding enterprises in Pennsylvania. Mountain Springs Farm, now located in Palmyra near Penn National Race Course, offers eight stallions available to breeders and has plenty of room for broodmares, foals, youngsters and layups.

Miller calls it "semi-retirement" now, laughing as he thinks about it. "I always enjoyed the horses and the racing the most at the old place. Now I have 80 horses here year-round, with horses coming in and out all the time. About 15 broodmares are mine, two stallions are mine, and then there's the young stock. I didn't intend for this to happen but a couple of opportunities presented themselves and I decided to bite the bullet and go."

The Miller family has been involved in horses for well over half a century. When he was a kid, Miller's parents had a place called Little Dutch Farm, where they offered pony rides, trail riding, a restaurant and even housed a few amusement park rides. In 1968 they moved to Shartlesville, where Mountain Springs began, literally from the ground up. The name fit because it was nestled right next to a mountain, which gave birth to a multitude of springs and creeks flowing right onto the property.

Rich Miller with Enticed.

Rich Miller continued from page 1

"It was my mother's parents' farm," Miller remembers. "And there was nothing there. We developed the whole thing from scratch. I was pretty young back then but I remember the outdoor arena and rodeos the most, getting them started, adding the roofs and stands. It was a long process and a lot of work in the beginning."

His father decided to add a campground on the property and that set the dominoes in motion. Once the grandstand was built, they started holding rodeos, concerts, and even a demolition derby. Family members competed in everything.

But Rich Miller was especially enamored by Thoroughbred racing after he bought his first racehorse out of a New Holland auction in 1978. He galloped the horse himself at home and the gelding rewarded him with a victory in Miller's very first race. He soon began breeding his own racehorses, even standing a few lower profile stallions for Pennsylvania breeders over the years. Some of those stallions included Grade 2 winner Meadow Monster (Meadowlake), Turn West (Gone West), Storm Center (Storm Bird) and Fini Cassette (Talc).

But everything changed when he received an offer on the property that he could not refuse. That set in motion a nearly two-year search for a property that could house his 30-40 horses, one which already had a basic setup with barns so he could move the horses right in.

Miller admits, "I didn't want to start from scratch again. I'd already done that. So while we were looking at another property nearby, this one came up because it fit exactly what we were looking for. I never even quibbled but said I needed to move in right away. We signed all the papers and it all fell into place. I'm glad the others didn't suit."

He transferred the name Mountain Springs Farm to the massive 200-acre property, which was more than double the size of the tract in Shartlesville. It allowed him to really invest in breeding and racing, bringing his focus back on his original love of horses. He started by standing two of his own stallions, one a multiple graded stakes-placed son of Tapit named Tight Ten and the other a stakes-winning, Grade 1-placed grandson of War Front and Storm Cat named Uncle Benny.

The farm also stands some of the state's leading sires, including Uptowncharlybrown, whose offspring earned breeders $2 million between 2023-24 while topping the state's rankings. Young stallion Enticed moved to Pennsylvania for this breeding season and boasts a brilliant pedigree: he is a son of Medaglia d'Oro out of the multiple Grade 1-winning mare It's Tricky. From his first two crops to race, Enticed is the sire of graded stakes winner Visually and stakes winners Under the Palms and Shimmering Allure. He ranked eighth in the nation last year among second-crop sires.

The rest of the Mountain Springs stallion roster is promising and exciting. Alejandro boasts a sparkling pedigree, being by superstar Curlin and out of Grade 1 winner Rachel's Valentina, herself a Grade 1-winning daughter of Hall of Famer Rachel Alexandra. Well Spelled (Spellbinder) and Eastwood (Speightstown) are among the leading sires in Pennsylvania. And Beverly Park (Munnings) screams hardiness after a 64-race career with 29 victories, highlighted by a 15-win 2022 season that saw him lead the nation in wins.

"I've always raced some of my homebreds," notes Miller. "But we are a lot more commercial now. Enticed looks like he's going to really take off. And Uptowncharlybrown and Eastwood are doing good. We're breeding a lot more mares than I ever have. With the number of stallions, it's hard to accommodate all the mares right here, so we do a lot of trailer breedings. This year we've bred quite a few already but April is going to be my busiest

continued on page 4

A few words from the Executive Secretary

The PHBA Banquet is being held on May 9 at the Inn at Mendenhall. We'll be honoring the Champions of 2024. Our guest speaker this year is NBC Sports reporter and retired jockey Donna Brothers. It should be a great evening. If you haven't purchased your tickets, please call the office at 610-444-1050.

Congrats to the Barlar-bred Simply Joking, who gave it her all and finished second by half a length in the Grade 2 Fantasy Stakes at Oaklawn Park on March 29. What a stretch run! She earned 50 points toward the Kentucky Oaks. Hopefully, we'll see this PA-Bred start next in the Oaks.

It's getting late to breed your mares, and you can find registered PA stallions sired by Tapit, Curlin, Munnings, Street Sense, Speightstown, Medaglia d'Oro, Gun Runner, Good Magic and many more, including nine new sires for 2025. Go to pabred.com and check out the PA Stallion & Boarding Farm Directory on the home page and book your next, or first, PA-Bred. Need a place to board and foal your mare? Please give us a calas space is available.

I'm happy to announce that there will be no registration fee for the PA-Sired PA-Bred Stallion Series in 2025. If your 2yo is PA-Sired PA-Bred you will be automatically registered to run. The only exception will be the third and final leg of the 2024 Stallion Series which will be run on Sept. 19 on PA Day at the Races, with stakes purses of $100,000 for 3yos and 3yo fillies. These horses were already registered as 2yos in 2024. Any 3yos you wish to enter in these races will have to be nominated by paying the $5,000 stated late fee to the PHBA before the nomination date of Tuesday, Sept. 2. A $50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the 2024 series will be paid after those races – $25,000 for first, $15,000 for second and $10,000 for third.

We'll be having our first PA Yearling Show on June 21 at Brandywine Polo Club in Chester County. Four categories, plus one for grand champion, will be offered with lots of prizes. You should have received show information and a registration form in the mail. It's also online on our website. Only $50 to enter. We will be paying two $20,000 bonuses, split between the top four 2yo and 3yo show participants, based on total earnings and not limited to PA races.

If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form. We will be transitioning to paperless this year. Wishing you a fantastic 2025, and remember, PA is the only place to Breed and Race! Go PA!

We'll be having our first PA Yearling Show

JUNE 21, 2025

at Brandywine Polo Club in Chester County.

Four categories, plus one for champion, will be offered with lots of prizes. You should have received show information and a registration form in the mail and online.

ONLY $50 TO ENTER

We also will be paying two — $20,000 bonuses

split between the top-four 2yo and 3yo show participants, based on total earnings, not limited to PA races.

ENTER TODAY

GO TO PABRED.COM

PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

701 East Baltimore Pike Suite E • Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone 610-444-1050 • Fax 610-444-1051
www.pabred.com

#PABred on social media

month. People are breeding later nowadays because it's nice when you can foal them and turn the babies right out. It makes more sense."

That works with how Miller prefers to handle his racehorses. He usually saves his 2-year-olds until the very end of their juvenile seasons, or even stretching into 3-year-olds. He wants to let them mature on their own. And he especially likes that the PA-Bred stakes schedule has adjusted its PA-Sired/PA-Bred races to better support older horses.

In the meantime, Miller will continue doing what he does best: working hands-on with the horses. "Sometimes I think I did the right thing and other days I lean the other way. But I think we're going all right. I don't get off this place very often, especially now during the breeding season. It's seven days a week right now."

But Miller wouldn't have it any other way. Retirement - or "semi-retirement" - suits him just fine.

PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through January 31, 2025

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total	Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Warriors Reward	32,192	8,514	40,706	St. Omer's Farm	16,800	0	16,800
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	19,862	15,497	35,359	Peter Giangiulio	14,112	0	14,112
William P. Brady Estate	29,688	0	29,688	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	8,736	4,928	13,664
Blackstone Farm LLC	28,958	0	28,958	Glenn E. Brok LLC	13,664	0	13,664
Equivine Farm LLC	28,786	0	28,786	Godric LLC	10,752	0	10,752
A1A Racing	19,040	5,035	24,075	Michael M. Moore	10,080	0	10,080
Chuck Russo	18,480	4,620	23,100	Cavanaugh Breen Farm LLC	10,080	0	10,080
Social Inclusion Partners LLC	0	20,395	20,395	Richard A Malouf	9,840	0	9,840
Joseph Imbesi	18,144	0	18,144	Bonner Hill Farms LLC	9,600	0	9,600
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	17,859	17,859	Luana J. Johnson	7,056	1,764	8,820

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total	Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	15	20,395	Pat On the Back	Harold Lerner LLC	2	2,400
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	37	15,497	Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	6	2,043
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	23	8,514	Poseidon's Warrior	Swilcan Stables LLC	4	1,932
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	17	7,250	Golddigger's Boy	Luana J. Johnson	1	1,764
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	28	6,545	Rimrod	George Strawbridge Jr. dba Augustin Stable	2	1,596
Peace and Justice	A1A Racing	12	5,035	Boisterous	Tommy Town Thoroughbreds LLC	4	934
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	13	4,928	Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	4	900
Il Villano	Chuck Russo	2	4,620	Normandy Invasion	William J. Solomon VMD	2	875
Flashback	Gary & Mary West Stables Inc	5	3,360	Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	5	825
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	10	2,702	Winchill	Pewter Stable	8	585

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments.

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
VEESON	Springingintherein - Il Villano	Chuck Russo	1	0	18,480	4,620	13,200	36,300
HARP'S HOT CORNER	Katarica Disco - Weigelia	St. Omer's Farm	1	0	16,800	4,200	12,000	33,000
SOCIALLY AWKWARD	Bluegrass Smile - Social Inclusion	Blackstone Farm LLC	2	0	17,052	4,263	10,830	32,145
DROPLINE	Sour Lemon Drop - Uncle Lino	William P. Brady Estate	2	0	19,440	4,860	0	24,300
SIRCHARLYBROWN	Torchwood - Uptowncharlybrown	Godric LLC	1	0	10,752	2,688	7,680	21,120
SOCIAL LADY	Graemy - Social Inclusion	Glenn E Brok LLC	1	0	10,752	2,688	7,680	21,120
MAXIMUS ANGELICUS	Disco Rose - Maximus Mischief	LC Racing LLC	1	0	8,400	0	12,000	20,400
REGALPAINS	Royalaspen - Hoppertunity	Equivine Farm LLC	1	0	8,400	0	12,000	20,400
SHARP TONES	A Dicey Dame - Tonalist	Lynn A. Ashby	1	0	8,400	0	12,000	20,400
WOULDJA COULDJA	Goodonehoney - Uncle Lino	Kasey K. Racing Stable Trini LLC	1	0	8,400	0	12,000	20,400
EDDIE W	Back Stop - Peace and Justice	A1A Racing	1	0	9,408	2,352	6,720	18,480
COMMINGLING	Rhyme N Rhythm - Social Inclusion	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	2	0	8,736	2,184	6,240	17,160
RACEY RUBY	Lucabunny - Social Inclusion	Joseph Imbesi	1	0	8,736	2,184	6,240	17,160
OKIE DEN DEN	Baetykaty - Uptowncharlybrown	Equivine Farm LLC	2	0	11,728	2,932	1,520	16,180
JUMP A FOX	Foxy A. G. - Jump Start	Peter Giangiulio	2	0	7,728	1,932	5,520	15,180

SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

Racing Across the Nation

Between Feb. 22 and March 8, three South Carolina training center graduates won stakes races. On Feb. 22, Barbadian Runner won his second stakes in a row capturing the Miracle Wood at Laurel Park. On Jan. 25, he won the Spectacular Bid Stakes, also at Laurel. In the Miracle Wood, Barbadian Runner rated behind the leaders before angling out four wide entering the stretch. In a hard-fought stretch long duel, he won by a nose. Barbadian Runner was prepared for his racing career by Bobby and Jason McCutchen at their training center in Kingstree.

On March 1, the 3-year-old filly Drexel Hill proved best in the Busher Stakes, a Kentucky Oaks prep race run at Aqueduct. After stumbling and bumping with a foe at the start, Drexel Hill had only one beat for the opening half mile. She made her move midway through the turn headed for home and, in a very game effort, got up to win by three-quarters of a length. Prepared for her racing career at the Travis Durr Training Center, Drexel Hill has two wins, two seconds and a third in seven career starts.

Another Travis Durr graduate, Circle P, was best in the Not For Love Stakes at Laurel Park March 8. In another very close finish, Circle P found a clear path in the stretch and in the shadow of the wire, got up to put his nose first on the wire. As a 2-year-old in 2023, Circle P won the Maryland Juvenile Stakes, also at Laurel.

While not a stakes victory, Book'em Danno recorded a notable win at Colonial Downs March 14. In a 7-furlong $150,000 handicap, Book'em Danno was a convincing 2½-length winner. He is a graduate of Randy and Kala Rentz's training center in Erhardt. In 12 career starts, Book'em Danno has seven wins, including five stakes victories, and $1,098,125 in earnings.

Aiken Trials weekend fun filled

On Saturday, March 15, the 82nd running of the Aiken Trials was held at the Aiken Training Track. On the day before, the Breakfast at the Gallops took place. The guest speaker was Hall of Fame jockey Ramon Dominguez. Both events were well attended.

Trials day consisted of a mixture of pony races, a polo pony race, a ladies' side saddle race and two Thoroughbred trials.

The first Thoroughbred trial was for 2-year-olds covering a quarter mile. In a close battle down the lane, an unnamed son of Connect owned by brothers Travis and Cody Durr was the winner. Travis is preparing the colt for his racing career at the Travis Durr Training Center in St. Matthews. Well known trainer Joe Sharp rode the colt.

Tiz the Prince, a 4-year-old son of Cairo Prince, captured the trial for older horses. Owned by Youngs Racing Stable and saddled by Bill Allyn, Tiz the Prince was ridden by Lizzie Quinn. Last year, Tiz the Prince won his race at the Aiken Trials before going to New York and recording two second place finishes. The co-owner, Ed Young, and his partners decided to retire the horse and find a home for him in Aiken. In his swan song race, they wanted to run in the Aiken Trials. This was truly a fairy tale ending to his racing career.

The following day, a ceremony was held at the Aiken Racing Hall of Fame and Museum. Ellen Charles' Post Time was honored as the 2024 Aiken-trained Horse of the Year. On behalf of Charles, Cary Frommer purchased Post Time at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic Fall Yearling Sale and brought him to Aiken. In 2024, Post Time ran nine times, all stakes, winning four and $975,000. He is trained by Brittany Russell and regularly ridden by her husband, Sheldon. Post Time was named 2024 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year, Champion Older Male and Champion Sprinter.

Elloree Trials big success

The 60th running of the Elloree Trials took place Saturday, March 22 in front of a record crowd at Franklin G. Smith's Elloree Training Center.

Six Thoroughbred trials were held. The first, a half-mile Maiden for 3-year-olds, was won by Mi Marquesa, a Kentucky-bred colt by Caracaro trained by Gregory Viands for owner Ira Ashwal. Rider J.L. Adams was aboard for the win. The second race, a half-mile Maiden race for 3-year-olds and up, was won by Pop's Gold, a 6-year-old South Carolina-bred by Done Talking owned by Bari and Emma Cuttino, trained by Lyn Cuttino, and ridden by Rakheem Pauling. This was one of two victories on the day for rider Pauling.

The next race, an open half-mile event for older fillies and mares, was won by Shuler Stables' 4-year-old West Virginia-bred filly Thelastsay (by Fiber Sonde). Trained by John R. Shuler and ridden by Lamont Smalls, this was one of two wins on the day for these connections.

The fourth Thoroughbred trial, a half-mile race for 3-year-old maidens, was won by trainer Jason McCutchen with the Kentucky-bred filly Slanderous (by Classic Empire) who'd placed last year at Colonial Downs. Owned by Walker and Mason McCutchen, Slanderous was ridden by Demetrius Chandler.

The second to last race, an open half-mile event for older colts and geldings,

was won by Shuler Stables' West Virginia-bred 5-year-old gelding Mac Daddy (by Limehouse), who signaled a return to the form he showed as a 3-year-old when he won three out of his first four starts at Mountaineer Park. Mac Daddy was trained by John R. Shuler, with rider Lamont Smalls aboard for the win.

The feature was The Elloree Cup, an open race for 3-year-olds going a half-mile.

The Ontario-bred filly Citori was a convincing winner of The Elloree Cup, in a time of :49.43 for trainer Travis Durr with rider Rakheem Pauling in the irons. Owned by Legion Bloodstock, who purchased her from the Keeneland September yearling sale, Citori is by The Factor out of the stakes-winning City Zip mare Ruslana.

Aiken Spring Steeplechase attracts horses and people

The 58th Running of the Aiken Spring Steeplechase was run at the Aiken Steeplechase Racecourse March 22. Under clear skies, while breezy, the event attracted a crowd of 34,000. Six races were held, one flat and five over hurdles.

The first race, covering 1¼ miles, was won by Hunt Lane Racing's Quiet Cat. He was saddled by Ricky Hendriks and ridden by Gerard Galligan. The margin of victory was 1¾ lengths.

The second race for Maidens, run at 2⅛ miles over National Fences, as were all of the following races, was won by Richard Colton's Bee Well, trained by SCTOBA member Arch Kingsley and ridden by Freddie Proctor. Bee Well reached the finish line 2¼ lengths in front. Lowcountry, owned by Why Not Racing LLC and trained by Lilith Boucher, proved best in the next race, a Ratings Handicap. He was ridden by the trainer's daughter, Mell Boucher, to a three-quarter length victory.

The fourth race, a Filly and Mare Maiden Hurdle, went to Leipers Fork Steeplechase LLC's Porte Jaune. Keri Brion gave Stephen Mulqueen a leg up. Porte Jaune crossed the finish line 2¾ lengths in front.

The next to last race, a Maiden Special Weight, produced the closest finish of the day. In a hard-fought stretch duel, Green Valley Construction LLC and John Moylan's Biggerthanbigtime reached the finish line just a nose in front. Trained by Barry Foley, he was ridden by James O'Sullivan.

The feature race of the day, The Imperial Cup, went to Upland Flat Racing LLC's Blue Creek. The team of Keri Brion and Stephen Mulqueen recorded their second win of the day. Blue Creek crossed the finish line a half length in front.

Steeplechase racing will return to Aiken Nov. 22.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Peace Cloud	Custom Care - D. Freyer	02/21/25	Tampa Bay	Maiden Special Weight
Braciole	Travis Durr Training Center	02/22/25	Aqueduct	Allowance
BARBADIAN RUNNER	McCutchen Training Center	02/22/25	Laurel Park	Miracle Wood S
Touchdown Arkansas	McCutchen Training Center	02/23/25	Oaklawn Park	Maiden Special Weight
Miles and Miles	Rentz Farm Training Center	02/23/25	Aqueduct	Maiden Special Weight
Divine Miracle	Travis Durr Training Center	02/25/25	Parx Racing	Allowance
Stiffling Heat	Rentz Farm Training Center	02/27/25	Penn National	Starter Allowance
Nail Polish	Rentz Farm Training Center	02/27/25	Penn National	Allowance
DREXEL HILL	Travis Durr Training Center	03/01/25	Aqueduct	Busher S
Coiled	Aiken - Legacy Stable	03/05/25	Turfway Park	Maiden Special Weight
General Banker	Travis Durr Training Center	03/08/25	Aqueduct	Allowance
CIRCLE P	Travis Durr Training Center	03/08/25	Laurel Park	Not For Love S
Latta	Travis Durr Training Center	03/12/25	Parx Racing	Allowance
Old Head	Rentz Farm Training Center	03/12/25	Parx Racing	Allowance
Ballad of Warrior	Retz Farm Training Center	03/13/25	Colonial Downs	Allowance
Graywing	Aiken - Legacy Stable	03/14/25	Aqueduct	Allowance
Book'em Danno	Rentz Farm Training Center	03/14/25	Colonial Downs	Handicap
Touchdown Arkansas	McCutchen Training Center	03/16/25	Oaklawn Park	Allowance
Sabalenka	Travis Durr Training Center	03/19/25	Fair Grounds	Allowance
Lonesome Boy	Rentz Farm Training Center	03/18/25	Parx Racing	Allowance
Lika Rolling Stone	Travis Durr Training Center	03/19/25	Parx Racing	Allowance

VIRGINIA

COLONIAL 2025 STAKES SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

Topped by a quartet of graded races, Colonial Downs released its summer 2025 stakes program consisting of 31 races worth $5.85 million for the 41-day season which runs from Wednesday, July 9 through Saturday, September 13.

The Colonial Downs Festival of Racing, scheduled for Saturday, August 9 is highlighted by the Grade 1 Arlington Million, the Grade 2 $500,000 Beverly D. and the Grade 2 $500,000 Secretariat Stakes — the traditional weekend for the renowned turf trio. The Million will be run at 1¼ miles, the Beverly D. will be contested at 1-3/16 miles and the Secretariat covers one mile.

Four additional stakes races pepper the Festival Day program: the $100,000 Petramalo Mile, a one-mile dirt race for 3-year-olds; its sister race, the $100,000 Tyson Gilpin at seven furlongs; the $150,000 Van Clief for 3-year-olds and up at 5½ furlongs on turf and its distaff companion event, the $150,000 Andy Guest.

On September 6, the Grade 3 $500,000 Old Dominion Derby and the Listed $250,000 Old Dominion Oaks take the place on the stakes schedule previously occupied by the Virginia Derby and Virginia Oaks which were moved to the dirt track and held in March.

The Old Dominion Derby and Old Dominion Oaks are 1-1/8 miles grass races and headline a card with $1.3 million in stakes purses including four other turf stakes: the $150,000 Da Hoss Stakes for older horses at 5½ furlongs; the $150,000 Colonial Cup, a 1½-mile marathon for 3-year-olds & up; the $125,000 Rosie's Stakes for 2-year-olds sprinting 5 ½ furlongs; and the $125,000 Kitten's Joy Stakes for 2-year-olds over a two-turn 1-1/16 miles on turf.

Two other $100,000 open company stakes are slated for the season: the Reigh Count for older horses travelling seven furlongs and Love Sign, a six-furlong dash for fillies and mares, both to be held Saturday, July 26.

Virginia-bred and -sired runners get plenty of opportunities throughout the summer starting the second weekend of the meet with four $125,000 events for Virginia-bred/sired horses — the Punch Line, a 5½ furlong turf dash and the Edward P. Evans, a two-turn 1-1/16 miles grass route on Friday, July 18 while the distaff version of the same races, the Glenn Petty and Brookmeade stakes, will be raced the following day.

Brittany Russell's Regalo (inside) edges Awesome Ruta in the inaugural Petramalo Mile last summer at Colonial Downs. The 2025 edition will be contested August 9 (Coady Media).

A pair of 2-year-old races for Virginia-restricted runners — the $100,000 Hickory Tree and its sister race the $100,000 Keswick – headline the Saturday, August 2 program. Each race offers $50,000 in additional money for Virginia-bred/sired horses and will be run 5½ furlongs on the dirt.

Later in the meet older Va.-restricted horses are featured in the $100,000 Meadow Stable Handicap and its female counterpart the $100,000 Camptown Handicap both at 5½ furlongs on turf. Like the Keswick and Hickory Tree, each race offers $50,000 in additional money for Virginia-bred/sired horses.

The final races restricted to Virginia runners – the $100,000 Bert Allen Handicap and the $100,000 Nellie Mae Fox Handicap – top the closing day card on Saturday, September 13. The races, each of which offer $50,000 in additional purses for Virginia bred/sired participants, are 1-1/16 miles turf events with the latter restricted to fillies and mares.

With continued collaboration between Virginia and Maryland stakes holders, six stakes races restricted to Maryland- and Virginia-bred or sired horses will be held this summer. The $125,000 Star De Naskra for 3-year-olds and $125,000 the Miss Disco for sophomore fillies are both seven furlongs on dirt (July 12) while the $125,000 Find and its sister race, the $125,000 All Brandy, are at 1-1/16 miles for older horses (August 16). The remaining two are 5½-furlong races for 2-year-olds: the $125,000 Jamestown and its sister race, the $125,000 Dolley Madison.

Additionally, there will be two $100,000 stakes races for fillies and mares

Deterministic wins the 2024 Virginia Derby --- which was a Grade 3 turf stakes. The race name, with its grade intact, has been changed to the Old Dominion Derby this summer (Coady Media).

Sky's Not Falling captures the 2024 Bert Allen Handicap in New Kent. The Handicap's 20th running will close out Colonial's summer season September 13 (Coady Media).

presented by the National Steeplechase Association — the Randolph D. Rouse on Thursday, August 7 and the Life's Illusion on Thursday, September 4.

Although not technically stakes races, Colonial Downs will host qualifying races for the Claiming Crown. The top two finishers in each race will automatically qualify for the Claiming Crown which will be held at Churchill Downs on November 15.

Eight races under starter allowance conditions will be run on Thursday, August 23: the $50,000 Iron Horse Qualifier (1-1/16m dirt); $50,000 Ready Rocket Express Qualifier (6f dirt); $50,000 Glass Slipper Qualifier, $62,500 Rapid Transit Qualifier (7f dirt); $75,000 Tiara Qualifier (1-1/16m turf); $75,000 Canterbury Qualifier (5½f turf); $87,500 Emerald Qualifier (1-1/16m turf); and the $100,000 Jewel (1-1/8m dirt).

Condition books and stall applications are available online at www.colonialdowns.com under the horsemen's tab. Stall applications are due Friday, May 9.

JILL BYRNE APPOINTED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE VIRGINIA THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Thoroughbred Association (VTA) has announced that Jill Byrne will take over as the organization's Executive Director. Debbie Easter will remain an integral part of the VTA but will now focus more time and energy on a wider range of industry initiatives with the Virginia Equine Alliance (VEA) of which she is President. Byrne will also continue to serve in her existing role as Vice-President of Marketing & Strategic Planning for the VEA.

Byrne is a Virginia native and graduate of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and has come full circle in a sense. After spending several decades in various roles around the country — as on-air host and handicapper with TVG, Senior Director of Industry Relations with the Breeders' Cup and Director of Broadcast Operations with Churchill Downs, she returned to Virginia to serve as VP of Racing Operations at Colonial Downs during the 2019 "Racing Revival" season and remained in that capacity for three more years before joining the VEA in 2023. With her combined VEA and VTA responsibilities, Byrne is once again based in Charlottesville where she works and resides.

"I look forward to continue to represent the Virginia horsemen and women, and work with all stakeholders as our racing and breeding programs in the state are growing and prospering," said Byrne. "Virginia has a renowned history in the thoroughbred industry and our future is brighter than ever."

"Our Virginia Equine Alliance team has accomplished so much over the last 7 years, but we need to continue to keep our foot on the gas if we are going to see continued growth for our Thoroughbred and Standardbred industries," added Easter. " Jill has done a fantastic job heading up marketing for the VEA and I am so pleased that she is willing to also take on a roll with the VTA. With her marketing knowledge and passion for Virginia's Thoroughbred industry, the VTA will be in very good hands."

Jill Byrne has been named Executive Director of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association.

"I'm pleased that Jill Byrne is taking on an even larger role in Virginia racing," said Turner Kobayashi, VTA President and General Manager of Audley Farm Equine in Berryville. "She has tremendous experience and has been a major player for a long time. Her new role allows Debbie (Easter) to help in other important areas. They are both great leaders and we are lucky to have both these talented professionals to lead us into the future."

The Virginia Thoroughbred Association is responsible for implementing a number of successful bonus programs including the Virginia Certified Residency program, which was instrumental in keeping the native industry vibrant after Colonial Downs initially ceased thoroughbred operations after the 2013 season.

The program, which started in 2017, requires horses to spend at least six consecutive months at a registered Virginia farm or training center before they turn three years of age. Since the program began, a total of 5,031 horses have participated and on average, each horse has stayed eight months in Virginia. Between 2018 and 2023, the program paid out a total of $14.6 million in bonuses and has had a total economic impact of $86.2 million, supporting 825 jobs in the Commonwealth.

VIRGINIA THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

President: Turner Kobayashi Vice-President: Andrew Motion Treasurer: Sara Miller Past President: Amy Moore Executive Director: Jill Byrne

Directors: Christina Applegate, Donna Dennehy, Chris Gracie, Alan Hutchinson, Chris Kuhn, Diane Manning, Diana McClure, Sarah Nagle, Brooke Royster, Pat Shepherd, Laura Smith, Wayne Chatfield Taylor, Wayne VanSant

Visit www.vabred.org–the best source for Virginia breeding and racing news

For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the VTA.

250 West Main Street, Suite 100, Charlottesville, VA 22902 | (434) 977-3716

Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter May 2025

WVTBA Annual Awards for 2024

By Jeff Gilleas

The West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association Annual Awards honor the finest equine/human achievements, judged via exploits on the racetrack.

On Sunday March 9, the third floor ballroom of the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races hosted the best theatrical performances of 2024, directed by the WVTBA.

The greatest reward in our sport is to hear your peers symphony of heartfelt applause for a job well done.

By evening's end, some shared a cup of coffee, others a sip of champagne, but everyone in attendance was moved, as they relived memories of how vulnerable, complicated and wonderful our beloved sport of Thoroughbred horse racing can be.

On an individual note, I appreciatively raised my glass to a champion that transcended his hometown roots, by successfully competing beyond the winding country roads of West Virginia, singularly elevating an industry's condition.

Horse of the Year
COASTAL MISSION

Back-to-back winner of Horse of the Year and champion older male was conferred upon a most deserving candidate, Coastal Mission. In an era where every racing jurisdiction is in an all-out battle for their economic survival, and regency over tracks cannibalization of each others simulcast time slots persist, accomplishments like Coastal Mission's graded stakes win in New York furnish hope for tomorrow.

Breeder: Coleswood Farm

Champion Two-Year-Old Filly
DIAKONISSA

Brooklyn-born Ralph Santella of Ultra Championship Racing has always dabbled in the game as a fan and owner. Now the personable international software salesman has really stuck his toes in the deep end of the pool, purchasing a farm (Pennsylvania) and stallion (Enticed).

Well known at Charles Town, often seen rubbing elbows with top conditioner Anthony Farrior, Ralph is just the kind of man horse racing needs, a vocal advocate of the sport and it's four-legged participants.

His deep-rooted passion of horses was instilled at an early age by his father. I only wish his unwavering loyalty to the business had culminated in a start-up acquisition a little closer to Charles Town.

Breeder: Michael Furr

Champion Two-Year-Old Colt
PASCALINE

Our familiarity with breeder and President of the Charles Town HBPA James Miller is well documented, but we'll have to wait for our official introduction to Social Chic's full brother and 2-year-old prodigy Pascaline.

The winner of the Laurel Futurity was a perfect 2-for-2 his freshman season for trainer Arnaud Delacour. Owned by West Point Thoroughbreds, Jimmy Kahig Racing, CJ Stables and Edwin Barker, the son of Upstart out of Tres Chic sold for $40,000 at a Keeneland yearling sale before being shipped to Europe for the April Tattersalls Breeze Up sale in Newmarket, England, where he was bought for $84,943 by West Point Thoroughbreds.

Breeder: James Miller

Champion Three-Year-Old Filly
OVERNIGHT POW WOW

Like most sports, horse racing is a roller coaster ride of emotions. Some believe the downs create character.

In the last few months, owner-trainer Cyndy McKee has experienced catastrophic losses, which included the untimely passing of foundation broodmare Holy Pow Wow, and the premature retirement of title-holder Direct the Cat. But Cyndy and her Beau Ridge Farm family stand united and unbroken.

Their hopes and prayers now reside on the powerful shoulders of Fiber Sonde's gifted daughter Overnight Pow Wow. A win in the highly prized Cavada Stakes on WVBC night capped a year where the gray/roan filly raced 11 times

and won eight, with a second and a third.

Breeder: John McKee

Champion Three-Year-old Male
JUBAWITHATWIST

Owner-trainer Kristy Petty continues to carry on the tradition of her at peace partner, John Casey, by employing many of his training methods, especially his most valuable lesson: "Let a horse be a horse."

Freshening horses over the winter to recover from the rigors of racing is a fundamental press reset button for K P Racing Stables. Kristy, a former jockey, has a good one in Jubawithatwist, who's last four races in 2024 culminated with Beyer numbers in excess of 100. His reign in the 3-year-old division began with a win in the 4½-furlong Coin Collector Stakes and closed out with a narrow defeat in the 1⅛-mile Sam Huff Breeders Classic against older runners.

Breeder: John Casey

Champion Older Filly or Mare
HESSICA

Thoroughbred racing likes to hold firm to old traditions and sayings like "horses for courses." For Kristy Petty's mare Hessica, it would be more accurate if we cite "stand tall in the fall." The daughter of Juba and Stefani's Surprise seems to have a penchant for shorter days and cooler temperatures.

Winner of back-to-back editions of the Cavada Stakes, Hessica almost staged a historic three-peat, only to stubbornly succumb to youthful rival Overnight Pow Wow. I will always admire this attractive bay for facing every challenge thrown her way.

She relates to William Faulkner's quote, "Always dream, and shoot higher than you know you can. Don't bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself."

Breeder: Kristy Lynn Petty

Champion Older Male
COASTAL MISSION

This champion removed barriers that members of his generation never tried to traverse. An unintimidated attitude, by synergistic owners Jeff and Susan Runco, allowed this son of Great Notion to figuratively hit a walk-off home run, in the bottom of the ninth inning, at Yankee Stadium.

Breeder: Coleswood Farm

Champion Female Sprinter
MAGGIE'S GIRL

The longer a top class horse's career, the bigger the fanbase becomes. Maggie's Girl has an astounding level of consistency, having never been worse than third in 17 starts.

Owned by Grams Racing Stable and trained by Tim Grams, the daughter of Uncle Lino out of Maginot Line brings her dynamism in every race and draws several comparisons between herself and a laundry list of well credentialed Grams' female runners.

Breeder: Tim and Judy Grams

Champion Male Sprinter
DUNCAN IDAHO

In a tightly-managed career, Duncan Idaho has forfeited distances more suitable to his triplet of family members (Muad'dib, Late Night Pow Wow, Overnight Pow Wow), to stay one of the state's best 4¼-furlong specialist. Nowadays, there are numerous opportunities to capitalize on sheer speed and guts, just the financial options may not be as lucrative.

Last year's signature race for the son of Fiber Sonde out of Holy Pow Wow owned by David Raim and trained by Jeff Runco was the WV Dash for Cash Breeders Classic.

Breeder: John McKee

Broodmare of the Year
HOLY POW WOW

Owner: Cyndy McKee

Sire of the Year
JUBA

Owner: Casey's Legacy LLC

Breeder of the Year
JOHN MCKEE

"Without Labor Nothing Prospers" – Sophocles

Benefits of Owning a WV-Bred and/or -Sired racehorse
Some of the best incentives in the nation!

- A minimum of three accredited races are written every day at Charles Town exclusively for registered WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- West Virginia has the only program in the country that permits horses to win state-bred races that do not count against the horse's lifetime open conditions.
- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes more than $4.5 million to breeders, owners, and stallion owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses based the horse's annual earnings at Charles Town and Mountaineer Park racetracks.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out almost $1 million in purses for WV-bred and/or -sired horses. It is held annually on the second Saturday in October.
- $800,000 in purses are allocated for up to 16 WV accredited stakes races during the year.
- Supplemental Purse Awards of up to 10% of the winner's share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner of the accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winner.
- West Virginia offers year-round racing with approximately 300 race days per year.

West Virginia Thoroughbred Breeders Association

P.O. Box 626, Charles Town, WV 25414
Phone: (304) 728-6868
Fax: (304) 724-7870
www.wvtba.com
Office location:
202 East Liberty St.,Charles Town, WV 25414.
Hours: 9-1 pm, Tuesday through Saturday

Cynthia McKee, ***President***
Mary Sell, ***Vice-President***
Leslie Cromer, ***Treasurer***
Judy Grams, ***Secretary***

Directors: Tim Collins, Janice Grove, Elizabeth Meehan, Melissa Mellott, Tonya O'Neill, Steve Reggetts

Chasing
Brought to you by the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation

New jockey initiatives for 2025

From top to bottom (and everything in between), programs designed around protecting the elite athletes that drive American steeplechasing

By Betsy Burke Parker

A number of innovative programs are being rolled out for the 2025 National Steeplechase Association season, with jockey safety again in the spotlight as still more medical studies about professional athletes have been released.

This year, many of the programs expand to include the point-to-point circuit.

Reimbursement for approved skull caps tops the list, along with continuation of fall and concussion protocol and related, web-based reporting-recording protocol. New safety vests will be provided to licensed riders this season, and an innovative sports counseling service is being made available, free of charge and without limit of use, to riders on the U.S. circuit.

"From my perspective, the (subsidized safety gear and) new protocols are modern extensions of what we've been doing" over the past few years, says NSA steward and recent Francis Thornton Greene Award winner Wayne Vansant. "Through the generous support of the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation, (we're able) to keep care and caution in front of the jockey colony."

Helmet program

For the second year, the Gwathmey foundation will cover the cost of a new helmet for every licensed jockey at the start of the season.

This purchase program joins an existing TGSF program which replaces helmets when a jockey has a fall where the helmet is impacted, or damaged.

"The NSA is dedicated to enhancing the safety of riders in all ways," notes president Al Griffin. "We are very grateful to TGSF for their foresight and generosity" in supporting the helmet program.

Jockeys Bernie Dalton and Gerard Galligan. ©Tod Marks

Professional and amateur riders licensed and in good standing with NSA are eligible.

Helmets must be approved by the SEI-ASTM ratings system or by the British Horseracing Authority.

HeadCheck program

HeadCheck is an online, web-based program used by U.S. jump racing and flat racing as a way to track head injuries from falls.

This spring, the Gwathmey foundation will fund use of HeadCheck on the point-to-point circuit as well.

The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority introduced this new concussion protocol in 2023, developed in consultation with medical and sports experts. It brought racing into line with other major sports for head injury management.

HeadCheck provides clear, step-by-step, race-day instructions for track medical personnel to follow when evaluating and monitoring riders for potential head injuries. Baseline mental testing is kept in the HeadCheck database for real-time comparisons, something that HeadCheck creators say is critical for an accurate assessment on a high-stress race day following a higher-stress spill with limited time between races.

"In a sport like racing where athletes are at high risk for concussion, it's crucial for every racetrack to have established concussion protocol in place," HISA medical director Dr. Peter Hester said in a release. "(This) requires prompt and correct care and clear documentation."

Safety vest

This year, NSA rolls out mandated use of the latest in safety vest design.

Level 2 body protectors – so named because of the measure of impact absorption capability – will be required by the Shawan Downs meet in September.

This has been the requirement for riders – on the flat and over jumps, in Europe for several years.

A grant from the TGSF will pay for new vests for all licensed jockeys – professional and amateur.

TGSF representatives will measure and fit riders this spring and will place the vest order in time for summer delivery.

Dr. Adrian McGoldrick, one-time chief medical office of the Turf Club in Ireland, helped develop the original ProRace 2.0

vest and the more recent RaceMotion2 model. McGoldrick wrote that the latest vests meet rigorous safety protocol while at once remaining lightweight and comfortable.

RaceMotion2 design features 120 individual hinged segments and multi-foam construction which provide a flexible fit, along with custom options including size as well as length of the front and back portions of the vest.

Chief medical officer for the Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board, Dr. Jennifer Pugh said in a study that the new vests reduce injuries overall, especially protecting against internal injury – to the liver, spleen, kidney, lungs, etc.

Pugh says softer foam, with more segments, and a tapered fit with breathable lining, give freedom of movement and less restriction to the jockey-athlete.

NSA safety committee consultant and 2012 NSA champion rider Ross Geraghty says most of the active jockeys are already using the level 2 vests. Everyone Geraghty has spoken to about it, he says, reports that they fit as well as – or better than, the older model vests.

OnRise mental health program

One new program this season will give riders access to unlimited online mental health services through the OnRise program.

The Gwathmey foundation will cover the cost of OnRise mental wellness services for jockeys, with hopes to expand the program to more horsemen and industry workers in the future.

OnRise is an online mental health provider geared toward athletes.

NSA riders will have unlimited mental health "visits," similar to open OnRise services for flat jockeys.

"Maximizing access to health care, including mental health well-being, is of paramount importance to us," NSA president Al Griffin says. "Again, the Gwathmey foundation has really taken a proactive approach in providing the funding for opportunities for riders free of charge."

OnRise provides direct, immediate and 24-7 access to therapists, psychiatrists and trained retired athletes for support, a program designed to create openness and reduce the stigmas related to mental health care within horse racing.

For handling the pressures of a demanding career, Jockeys Guild president Terry Meyocks called use of the OnRise system "a no-brainer."

Jockey Harrison Beswick. ©*Tod Marks*

OnRise works with the Major League Sports Players Association, U.S. National Team Players Association, lacrosse and pro volleyball leagues.

"Jockeys face immense physical and mental demands," Meycocks said in a Paulick Report story. "These are highly skilled athletes who confront unique stressors. OnRise …. provides a safe space to connect with professional peers who understand their experiences, offering valuable support to navigate the pressures of this demanding career."

Gwathmey trustee, NSA board member and NSA champion rider in 1998, Sean Clancy has a unique measure of OnRise. "Jockeys are in the firing line each and every day, each and every race and hopefully this can play a small part in helping cope with the stress of the job," Clancy says. "I know I struggled at times, when I rode, and after I retired. Maybe this will make a difference. It's important to be upfront and proactive about mental health.

"Some day perhaps it can be provided to retired jockeys and to all our participants. That's a good goal to set."

Flat track purses approach $2 million

An ambitious program of eight races -- notably four $150,000 Grade 1s -- worth $890,000 are tentatively scheduled for Saratoga and Aqueduct this year, with another 21 races worth $1.05 million planned for Colonial Downs in New Kent, Va.

The Saratoga season begins with the G1 Beverly R. Steinman on Friday June 4, during the Belmont Stakes at Saratoga Festival. The regular summer campaign will be conducted on Wednesdays beginning on July 16 with the $75,000 Jonathan Kiser novice stakes, followed by the G1 A.P. Smithwick on July 23; a $70,000 allowance hurdle on July 30; $75,000 Michael G. Walsh novice stakes on Aug. 13; G1 Jonathan Sheppard on Aug. 20; and a $70,000 allowance hurdle on Aug. 27. Aqueduct will once again host the G1 Lonesome Glory, on Sept. 18.

At Colonial Downs, racing will take place on Thursdays, with three jump races carded on each date. The only exception is the final program, to be run on Friday Sept. 11, which substitutes one jump race with a $50,000 flat race on the turf for jumpers who started during the meet but didn't win. The other race dates are July 10, 17, 31, Aug. 7 and 21, and Sept. 4. The meet's high points are two $100,000 filly and mare stakes, the Randolph Rouse on Aug. 7 and the Life's Illusion on Sept. 4.

Index to Advertisers

American Revolution 17
Country Life Farm & Merryland ..... Inside front cover
Fasig-Tipton Midlantic 1
Fastrak Express Inc. 66
Hy-Tech Mushroom Compost 66
John Deere 43
Maryland-Bred Preakness Bonus 23
Maryland-Bred Race Fund 4, 11, 19
Maryland-Bred Yearling Show 9
Maryland Jockey Club 5
Northview Stallion Station ..... Inside back cover
NTRA Advantage 68
Retired Racehorse Project 22
Spendthrift Farm 15
The Mill 23
TRPB Integrity Hotline 67
Vetericyn 55
Virginia Thoroughbred Association ..... Back cover
Wes Carter Training Stable 13
WVTBA 3

Celebrating 40+ Years!

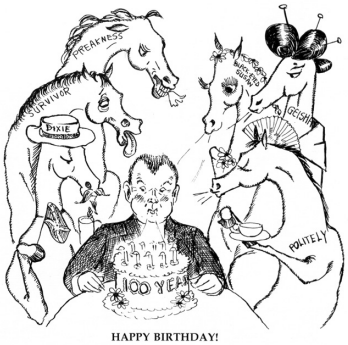
STITCHES by Chloé

- Jockey Colors
- Blinkers
- Saddle Cloths
- Embroidery

Cathy Morse
(410) 562-5066
sttchsbychloe@hotmail.com
www.stitchesbychloe.net
Check us out on FaceBook

Land & Farm Properties
Maryland • Delaware • Pennsylvania
Selling Horse Farms
for 40 years and counting
A. John Price
Patterson Price LAND & FARMS
A DIVISION OF
Patterson Schwartz REAL ESTATE
302-379-6318
888-909-FARM

— Looking Back —



50 years ago

■ Three men whose careers put them in intimate contact with Pimlico and the Preakness – Dave Woods, Joe Hickey and Chick Lang – recorded their reminiscences as Preakness 100 was celebrated.

Woods was Pimlico's former publicity chief from 1937, when War Admiral won, through 1951. He noted that his "memories are more of people than horses."

Being a member of the press offered its challenges before the Alfred Vanderbilt era: "The pressbox when I went to Pimlico was a casually built structure hanging perilously from the eaves of the grandstand. It was dubbed by the half-dozen working writers the 'Crow's Nest' and, once perched there, the only means of communication with other areas was by messages passed up and down in a tin can attached to a long rope."

Among Vanderbilt's changes was a new press box with a telephone through a central switchboard, a photo finish camera, and a modern automatic starting gate.

"Alfred Vanderbilt had an affection for Pimlico and a genius for promotion; he made Pimlico a fun place. . ." said Woods.

Hickey, who headed Pimlico's publicity department from 1963-69, had earlier been an assistant editor of *Turf & Sport Digest*, a columnist for the *Daily Racing Form* and worked for years with *Maryland Horse* before being hired at Windfields Farm. He recalled the races, horses and their connections.

Snowden Carter's continuing article on Lang, Pimlico's general manager, ran a second month.

■ Leading from start to finish, *Jacko defeated *Fort Devon in one of the closest finishes in Maryland Hunt Cup history. It was the first Hunt Cup victory for 39-year-old Russell Jones of West Grove, Pa., who had ridden in four earlier runnings. He finished second with Eastmac in 1974 and Knockbawn in 1970 and third aboard Boating Party in 1966. In 1973 he was far in front aboard *Jacko before they fell at the 19th. Jones said he could have remounted and won, but the bridle had broken while the horse scrambled to his feet.

The win continued Pennsylvania's domination of the Hunt Cup since 1969, the lone exception Maryland's Early Earner in 1972.

■ Maryland's racing scene was ready to shift from Pimlico to Bowie, which would run for 47 days from May 27 through July 19. It would be the first summer meeting at Bowie (management stating that its grandstand and clubhouse were fully air-conditioned), and resulted from 1974 legislation authorizing year-round racing in Maryland. Profits would be equally shared by the state's three mile tracks — Pimlico, Laurel and Bowie. Timonium would pick up immediately after, running 42 days from July 21 through Sept. 6.

75 years ago

■ Pine Pep emerged with his second consecutive Maryland Hunt Cup victory for owners, Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Clothier of Philadelphia, trainer W. Burling Cocks, and rider Mikey Smithwick. The 10-year-old chestnut gelding by Petee-Wrack out of Red Queen, by Mad Hatter, was bred by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Allen in the Worthington Valley, close to the Hunt Cup course where he was gaining so much fame. For Cocks and Smithwick, it was their third victory in the race, having taken the 1948 running with Peterski (also by Petee-Wrack).

■ Opening of the Pimlico meeting with Garden State Park operating at the same time put many Maryland horsemen in something of a spot. Having patronized both tracks in the past, they were averse to giving up one now. So there was a great deal of splitting stables, with one division remaining in Maryland, the other going to Jersey. And the van operators stayed busy shipping horses back and forth as spots developed for them.

■ Even one of the greatest riders in history made mistakes. Noted Joe Palmer: "The 1950 Kentucky Derby was remarkable in many respects, including the fact that Eddie Arcaro, who had guessed wrong when he took Devil Diver instead of Shut Out in 1942, guessed wrong again when he took Hill Prince instead of Middleground this year. He could have had either one, and he didn't make up his mind definitely until after he had won the Wood Memorial so convincingly on Hill Prince. Remember this the next time you hear a jockey's tip."

Arcaro stuck with Christopher Chenery's Virginia homebred, and won the Withers Stakes the next week, and the Preakness a week later.

■ Nearly a dozen babies born in March and April were reported by Sagamore Farm, including a bay colt by Discovery—Stellar Role, by Bimelech, born March 16, and a black colt by Polynesian out of Discovery's daughter Geisha born March 27.

The bay Discovery colt was one of Maryland's all-time greats, Find. The black colt, actually foaled in Kentucky, eventually turned gray and was legendary champion Native Dancer, who lived the majority of his life at the Maryland farm and became one of the most influential stallions in history.

10 years ago

Not For Love

TONY LEONARD

■ Northview Stallion Station announced the retirement of Not For Love. The 25-year-old son of Mr. Prospector made his entire career at the Chesapeake City, Md., farm and led the region's sire ranks for years. For 13 of the previous 14 years his progeny earned in excess of $3 million and he had at least one stakes winner in each of his 15 crops to race (through 2014), with 79 total at the time of his retirement.

■ Wiseman's Ferry, who arrived in Pennsylvania for the 2010 breeding season with two crops of racing age, and hit it big with 2012 and 2013 Horse of the Year Wise Dan, died of a heart attack at age 16 after covering a mare at Dana Point Farm in Lenhartsville, Pa. The son of Hennessy had bred five of the 38 mares booked to him that season.

■ The documentary *Racing The Times* premiered at the Senator Theatre in Baltimore. The film, which travels back in time to the 1700s and the Annapolis Subscription Plate, provided a look at Maryland's storied Thoroughbred industry. "I know we have the watermen, but in the state of Maryland I can't think of a tradition that's as powerful and has survived the ebbs and flows of history the way the horse industry is," said producer/director Drew Perkins.

■ Preakness history has had its share of manic trips, traps and troubles. Nine were given a closer look, including Codex and Genuine Risk in 1980, the winning run by temperamental 1926 winner Display, and the stretch battle between Greek Money and Ridan in 1962. A 10th account received special coverage with its own article – that of Afleet Alex's stretch run in 2005.

25 years ago

■ Legislation that would prohibit gambling on the internet while preserving account wagering passed the U.S. House Judiciary Committee. The Internet Gambling Prohibition Act, with language virtually identical to that of the Senate bill passed the previous fall (the so-called Kyl bill), was set to be considered by the full House. American Horse Council president Jay Hickey and regional track executives discussed the pending legislation and the future of account wagering in interviews with Tim Capps and Lucy Acton.

■ Pennsylvanian Betty Moran won the Aintree Grand National with Papillon. Trained by Ted Walsh in Ireland, and ridden by Walsh's 20-year-old son, top Irish jump jockey Ruby Walsh, Papillon made the lead in the final stages of the 4½-mile, 30-fence race and held on to win.

"It compares with [Creme Fraiche's] Belmont win," said Moran, who had a 30-year connection with Walsh. Her son Michael worked in Ireland for Ted's father Ruby, and Moran bought Papillon on something of a lark.

"I don't really have horses to race in Ireland, but the Walshes are friends and Ted called me six years ago and told me he had a nice looking 'chaser type and asked if I wanted to have a horse in his yard," Moran said. "I said, 'Sure we'll try it.' "

Moran became just the ninth American owner to win the world's most famous steeplechase.

■ The Carolina Cup in Camden, S.C., set an American steeplechase attendance record with 71,000. Pennsylvania-bred Invest West was declared the winner of the featured $100,000 Carolina Cup-G1 for owner/breeder George Strawbridge Jr. after Campanile, who won in a hand ride, was disqualified and placed third for interference. The Janet Elliot trainee was then disqualified from purse money when stewards ruled that Jonathan Kiser did not properly weigh in with the clerk of scales.

■ The region lost two iconic horsepeople– Sonny Hine and Sara Bosley Secor.

Hine, 69, was a second-generation trainer, his father Arthur Hine having conditioned horses on the Maryland/West Virginia circuit. Sonny began working at Charles Town in the late 1940s after graduating high school, became a full time trainer in 1957, was based in Maryland for three decades, and eventually settled on the New Jersey/Florida circuit. The best of his champions and stakes winners was Horse of the Year Skip Away. *(Hine and Skip Away were inducted into the Racing Hall of Fame in 2003 and 2004, respectively.)*

Secor, 80, a longtime master of the Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club, was a lifelong Maryland horsewoman who nurtured the talents of many young people in the Thoroughbred world at her Inverness Farm. She also played a central role in one of Maryland's equine heroes – the inimitable Chase Me, a foal of 1929 who went from foxhunter and show horse to undefeated stakes winner and challenger of champion Equipoise.

Chase Me got his early training from Secor, who taught him not only the skills necessary for success in the hunt field and show ring, but also such tricks as shaking hands, playing dead and stealing handkerchiefs from pockets. His story was used in the 1935 Broadway hit play *Three Men on a Horse*, later made into a Warner Brothers movie.

Full House

In front of a packed house for the 64th Preakness Stakes on May 13, 1939, Maryland-bred Challedon triumphed at Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course, which featured the historic clubhouse near the first turn, homestretch grandstand and a few choice parking spots. Those who bet $2 on the winner took home $14.40.

From the Maryland Horse Library archives. *News American* photo.

NORTHVIEW STALLION

ROSTER FOR 2025

Endorsed $5,000 LF

Medaglia d'Oro - Dance Card, by Tapit

Engage $5,000 LF

Into Mischief - Nefertiti, by Speightstown

Galawi (IRE) $2,000 LF

Dubawi (IRE) - Galikova (FR), by Galileo (IRE)

Golden Lad $4,500 LF

Medaglia d'Oro - Broadway Gold, by Seeking the Gold

Great Notion BOOKED FULL

Elusive Quality - Evening Primrose, by Dayjur

Uncle Lino $3,500 LF

Uncle Mo - Haysee, by Orientate

Northview STALLION STATION

northviewstallions.com
Linda Bench: 410.885.2855, lbench@northviewstallions.com
Paul O'Loughlin: 443.566.2996 (cell), paul@northviewstallions.com
55 Northern Dancer Drive, Chesapeake City, MD 21915

If you race in the Mid-Atlantic region,

It makes more sense than ever to be VA-certified!

Added value whether you're buying, selling or breeding to race

CHECK OUT THESE

VA-certified / VA-bred 2-Year-Olds at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May Sale

~~~~~~~~~~~~

7 MITOLE–BELLS OF WAR filly
8 BLOFELD –BEST MOM EVER filly
37 INDEPENDENCE HALL–CANDYSTAND filly
46 KANTHAROS–CARPE CASANOVA filly
65 CHARLATAN–COMPENSATE filly
70 CAIRO PRINCE–COUSIN NEWYORK FAY colt
92 FLAMEAWAY–DYNAMIC WAR colt
130 BLAME–FOR ALL THE GRANDS colt
133 MAXIMUS MISCHIEF–FOREST PATH filly
168 FROSTED–HOLIDAY CHILLS colt
175 MODERNIST–IF I WAS A BOY filly
208 PRACTICAL JOKE–KITTEN EMPRESS filly
261 MITOLE–MISELLY colt
289 BEAU LIAM–NEWPORT BLUE colt
297 BEAU LIAM–OKBYECYA colt
337 VEKOMA–RACHEL'S SMOKIN filly
343 MENDELSSOHN–REIKO filly
350 TIZ THE LAW–ROCK ME MAMA colt
361 ECHO TOWN–SAILINGINTOTHEWIND colt
465 MITOLE–TIMELESS TREASURE colt
485 BASIN–UNIQUELY MINE colt
490 FROSTED–VESPER LYND filly
510 VEKOMA–YALISHA colt

Colonial Downs 2025

41 days: July 19 – Sept 13

For Virginia-Certified Owners

- **VA restricted purses at Colonial Downs are 25% higher than the open races**
- **VA-Restricted maiden purses of $87,500**
- **SIX $100,000 handicaps and stakes for VA-certified**

For Virginia-Certified Developers*

- **Up to a 25% bonus for any open race win** in NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, & VA, including NSA sanctioned meets
- **10% bonus for state-bred restricted wins** in NY, NJ, PA, DE, & MD including NSA sanctioned meets

* Defined as the owner of horse in first lifetime start

BONUSES WILL NOT BE EARNED FOR OUT-OF-STATE WINS DURING THE COLONIAL DOWNS MEET

Now's the time to send your yearlings to Virginia for certification!

For complete details on the VA-Bred and VA-certified programs, go to **VaBred.org**
Or contact the Virginia Thoroughbred Association at **434-977-3716**
~~~~~~~~~~~~